

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 10th September 2019

CONTACT OFFICER: Thomas Overend, Policy Insight Manager
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875657

WARDS: All

PART I

FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

FRIMLEY HEALTH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST - WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY

1. **Purpose of Report**

To consider Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust's decision to transfer non-clinical staff to a wholly owned subsidiary company.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Panel review Frimley Health's case for change (Appendix A), comment upon it and seek to ascertain how it will affect the hospital and community services provided for residents of Slough.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The decision may have implications for the first three priorities of the SJWS:

1. Protecting vulnerable children
2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
3. Improving mental health and wellbeing

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Though not a decision made by SBC, the creation of the wholly-owned subsidiary may have implications for Outcome 2 of the Five Year Plan:

- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

None - this report refers to a decision made outside of the council.

(b) **Risk Management**

None - this report refers to a decision made outside of the council.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

None - this report refers to a decision made outside of the council.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None - this report refers to a decision made outside of the council.

5. **Supporting Information**

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital and community services for 900,000 people in Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey and South Buckinghamshire - including at Wexham Park Hospital.

Frimley Health has taken the decision to transfer non-clinical staff to a subsidiary company, which will be 100% owned by the Trust. This will have implications for the future delivery of hospital and community services in Slough.

It is hoped that this decision will:

- Save clinical time and improve the quality of non-clinical support provided to frontline services.
- Increase the focus on direct patient care
- Increase investment in equipment upgrades to improve sustainability and safety
- Provide the best 'end-to-end' supply chain as well as further commercial opportunities.
- Develop non-clinical services and protect them from potential outsourcing.
- Maximise new income, commercial and cost saving opportunities for the Trust and the wider healthcare economy.
- Maintain or exceed current levels and enable service modernisation.

Frimley Health's Case for Change (Appendix A) provides detail on the rationale behind the decision, including information on:

- The background to the decision;
- The changing demand in healthcare;
- Frimley Health's ambitions and the challenges it faces in regard to the workforce, quality and finances;
- Frimley Health's aims and objectives;
- The options which were available to them; and
- The benefits Frimley Health expects to receive through the wholly owned subsidiary.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This report is yet to be seen by any other committees.

7. **Conclusion**

The Health Scrutiny Panel should seek to ascertain how the decision taken by Frimley Health may affect the future of hospital and community services for residents of Slough.

8. **Appendix Attached**

‘A’ Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust - Wholly Owned Subsidiary - Case for Change, August 2019

9. **Background Papers**

None