



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

HOUSING HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE	TITLE	Wards
17 July 2012	Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH): Application for Foundation Trust Status	All

SYNOPSIS

CLCH is working towards becoming an NHS Foundation Trust in the summer of 2013. All NHS organisations like CLCH are required to either become an NHS Foundation Trust by 2014 or become part of another NHS Foundation Trust. As part of its application process CLCH is consulting on its Foundation Trust plans. Foundation Trust status would mean that CLCH:

- Would remain part of the NHS, providing NHS care free of charge.
- Can reinvest any savings into further improving local patient care.
- Would have a local membership made up of local people, staff, and patients – who have a say in the future of the organisation.
- Would have governors elected by its members as well as appointed governors.
- Would be more accountable to the people who use its services, its staff and local communities.
- Would have greater freedoms and flexibility in how things are done.

Like traditional NHS organisations, Foundation Trusts provide NHS care free of charge to NHS patients. They operate within a national framework of standards and inspections, but



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Foundation Trusts are regulated by Monitor, the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts.

Foundation Trusts differ from traditional NHS organisations because they have greater autonomy and freedoms. As a result they are able to be more innovative in how they develop their services, and in how they respond to the changing healthcare needs of their local communities. For example, Foundation Trusts are able to establish long-term contracts, partnership working arrangements, and research and development initiatives. They are also able to invest money gained through sound financial management to improve existing services and to develop new ones.

Foundation Trusts have a membership, made up of local people, patients and employees. This membership elects Governors who sit on the Council of Governors together with Appointed Governors from partner organisations. Governors actively work with the trust, influencing the way that services are developed and run on behalf of the membership. This means that Foundation Trusts provide their local communities with a say in the way their healthcare needs are met. In addition, Governors have statutory duties including appointing the Chair and other Non-Executive Directors and approving the appointment of the Chief Executive, providing them with real influence.

CONTRIBUTORS

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The committee is asked to respond to the consultation on the Foundation Trust plans.
(Attached)