

Agenda Item:

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Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	10 September 2014
Officer	Director for Adult and Community Services
Subject of Report	Dorset County Hospital: Update regarding Pathology Services Tendering Project
Executive Summary	<p>Following previous reports and briefings to the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee in November 2013 and March and May 2014, this update sets out the current status of the Dorset County Hospital Pathology Service project, with a revised timetable.</p> <p>Four potential providers were shortlisted in March 2014 and their submissions were evaluated in July. The need for clarification on a small number of issues has resulted in an adjustment to the original timescales, and the Trust Board will now be asked to decide the outcome of the project in October 2014.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>Report provided by Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.</p>
	<p>Budget:</p> <p>None for Dorset County Council.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the</p>

	<p>County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications: None.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>That the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee note and comment on the report.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>The work of the Committee contributes to the County Council's aims to protect and enrich the health and wellbeing of Dorset's most vulnerable adults and children.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>Reports and briefings to Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee, 19 November 2013; 10 March 2014; 23 May 2014:</p> <p>http://www1.dorsetforyou.com/COUNCIL/commis2013.nsf/MIN/B6AA9C129AFE265380257C210033D69E?OpenDocument</p> <p>http://www1.dorsetforyou.com/COUNCIL/commis2013.nsf/MIN/BDB6E7D1E6CD881880257C8D003FBBEC?OpenDocument</p> <p>http://www1.dorsetforyou.com/COUNCIL/commis2013.nsf/MIN/E8DCEA6BF2220C0D80257CE800346D26?OpenDocument</p>
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Pathology Tendering Project Scrutiny Committee Brief

15 August 2014

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update the scrutiny committee on Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's (DCHFT) pathology tendering project. The aims and scope of the project have been reiterated previously and can be found at Annex A.

Project Update

2. On 21 March 2014, 4 potential providers from a total of 8 were shortlisted to progress to the next part of the process. The remaining 4 are a mixture of NHS and private organisations.
3. A document key to the tender process is the service specification. It was produced by Trust staff and describes the future Pathology service in objective detail. It was issued to the potential providers who used it to form their tender response.
4. The service specification is a lengthy, clinically technical document and is currently part of the commercially sensitive tender process. After the project is complete it will be made available under the Freedom of Information Act.
5. The tender period ended 27 June 2014 and the submissions from the potential providers were evaluated. The evaluation panel consisted of 16 Trust staff; 8 clinicians, 6 specialists and 2 senior managers who scored areas relevant to their expertise. In addition, the panel received presentations from the potential providers and visited their laboratories.
6. The evaluation panel convened as planned 24 July 2014. At this meeting it became clear that a small number of clinical and non-clinical clarifications were needed; the outcome of which could potentially affect the final outcome. It was decided to seek clarification from potential providers. As a consequence the plan has been adjusted, see below.

Milestone	Deadline Date	Status
Suppliers short-listed	21 Mar 14	Complete
Tender period completed	27 Jun 14	Complete
Supplier evaluation completed	30 Sep 14	
Decision-making complete	Oct 14	

7. A final decision on the future provision of Pathology services for the Trust is expected in October 2014.

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Annex A – Project Aims and Scope

Project Aims

8. The project has two aims:
 - Using a tender process, compare our pathology services against other interested providers to determine if DCHFT is providing the best value service.
 - Use the outcome of the tender process to inform a decision on the future provision of the service.
9. The tender process will create the framework to ensure DCHFT is able to objectively evaluate its current provision of services against other interested parties. The decision on the future provision of pathology services will be made at a DCHFT Trust board. One of the options, based on the evaluation, could be to retain current services.
10. The evaluation of the best service will be based on quality and cost. The quality component is weighted higher than cost, ensuring that providing a high quality, responsive and safe service to patients is the priority.

Project Scope

11. The pathology service can be split broadly into a number of functions:
 - Collection of the specimen
 - Transportation to the laboratory
 - Processing
 - Medical diagnosis, result interpretation and collaboration with other clinical staff to support patient care.
12. The project scope includes the transportation and processing and some point of care testing. In effect the scope covers most of the background non-patient facing activity. The collection of the specimen and medical diagnosis is explicitly out of scope.