



## West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust Staff Communication

14 November 2011

This note is to bring you up to date with the progress being made by Consolidated Pathology Services' (CPS) to consolidate Pathology Services and bid for the Direct Access Services (DAS), i.e. GP work. This is part of an NHS restructuring by the East of England's (EoE) Pathology Services Transformation Board.

As you are aware, CPS is made up of four Trusts: West Herts, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Bedford Hospital, who sub-contract pathology to GSTS, and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow.

Following recommendations of the Carter report, pathology services are being consolidated in many parts of the country to reduce costs and provide a high quality service for all patients. This initiative is part of the national QIPP programme (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) initiative.

The SHA envisages that there will be 3 or 4 central hubs in the East of England providing highly automated blood and microbiology pathology services for GPs.

CPS teams from our four Trusts (organised into seven work streams) have now outlined and tested the feasibility of different options to consolidate pathology and deliver direct access pathology. CPS has submitted the answers to over 80 questions covering the clinical, legal, workforce, IM&T, estates, financial, logistics, organisational and commercial aspects of our bid. This submission is called the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD).

### The tendering process - Progress to Date

- Our proposal was submitted to the SHA on 7 November 2011.
- The bid documentation required the four Trusts in CPS to identify the host Trust and designate the hub laboratories for Direct Access Blood Sciences and Microbiology.
- The submission will be scored against set criteria with the clinical aspects carrying 70% of the overall score.
- There will be dialogue with the SHA starting in early December. If CPS is allowed to proceed to the next stage, the SHA will determine the geographical area that CPS will cover.
- The next stage is called the Invitation to Tender (ITT). This will ensure that due diligence (ie detailed checking) is undertaken on the bid and we will also provide more detail into how the proposed model will work and the financial implications.
- CPS is in competition with other NHS bidders in the East of England. Successful bidders will receive confirmation to proceed to the ITT stage in early January 2012. The submission deadline is 30 January 2012. A business case will need to be presented to each Trust Board within CPS and the SHA will prepare a full business case (FBC) to be presented to the SHA's Operations Board.
- The preferred bidders will be appointed, subject to FBC approval in March 2012 and the contract(s) awarded on 1 April 2012. Service commencement will be 1 September 2012.

### Current proposals

Details of current plans are listed below; these may change as we progress through the procurement process:

