Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
25th March 2010

TITLE	**Excellence in Education Consultation Response**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	NHS South East Coast is seeking views on "How should postgraduate education of doctors, dentists and pharmacists be organised in the South East Coast region in the future?" Their consultation document was received by the Board last month. The suggested response for ASPH is attached for comment, approval and submission by the due date (tomorrow).
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	The contribution of junior doctors to the services the Trust provides is crucial. An insufficient supply, and/or poor quality junior doctors could pose a significant risk to the Trust in many different ways.
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	The Trust works with many of its key stakeholders around providing postgraduate education including; Imperial College, St George's, Brighton and Sussex Universities and both the Kent, Surrey and Sussex and London Deaneries. Junior doctors are key to the quality of care we provide to our patients.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	It will be important for the future organisation of postgraduate education is subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQA). There is an increasing proportion of women amongst doctors in training.
LEGAL ISSUES	None.
The Trust Board is asked to:	Comment on and approve this consultation response
Submitted by:	Andrew Liles, Chief Executive
Date:	17 March 2010
Decision:	For Approving

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South East Coast

Paper 7.3

Excellence in Education

a consultation about the organisation of postgraduate education for doctors, dentists and pharmacists in NHS South East Coast

Response Form

Thank you for responding to this consultation. Please enter your personal details and your comments on each of the specific questions in the boxes below. Select a box by placing the mouse pointer in the left-hand side of the box. The boxes will expand to accommodate your text. You have an opportunity to comment on matters other than the specific questions at the end of the form.

Please return your completed form as an attachment to an email addressed to CWDBusinessUnit@southeastcoast.nhs.uk

Your first name

Andrew

Job title

Chief Executive

Surname

Liles

Organisation

Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust

Specific questions

Please respond to these specific questions raised in the consultation paper.

1. Do you support the creation of Medical Education South East Coast?

The merits of creating this new advisory committee vary according to the future organisational arrangements agreed to support the Deanery in the future as set out in question 10.

If the preferred option is either 10 (a) or 10 (b), the need for this committee seems to be less obvious. The prime governance for postgraduate education would continue to be the SHA Board, which acts to represent the best interest of the NHS organisations that train doctors in the South East. The arrangements for commissioning post education are already complex. Setting up an additional, large committee could be unwieldy, add to management costs and divert funding from training.

If the preferred option is 10 (c) then such an advisory committee would be very important. We reflect further on this in our answer to questions 2 and 10.

2. Do you have any comments on its proposed terms of reference and membership? (See Annex A of the consultation paper)

If the preferred option is to transfer the Deanery to an existing NHS organisation it will be essential that an effective and representative consultation committee is formed.

The main purpose of the committee should be to ensure fairness in the allocation and supply of postgraduate trainees & education across the whole of the South East. As one of the largest providers of postgraduate education in the South East, ASPH would expect to play a full role in such a committee. Three NHS Chief Executive places would enable a fair representation across the 3 counties.

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3. Do you support the idea that a Strategic Health Authority might act as a lead commissioner on behalf of several regions for certain specialties?

We do. The test of success for this arrangement would be the delivery of sufficient high quality trainees in both SHA's.

4. Do you agree with the list of specialties that are candidates for lead commissioning? (See Table 4 in the consultation paper) What specialties would you add to or delete from this list?

We do.

5. Do you have a view about which strategic health authority would be best placed to act as lead commissioner for each specialty?

We don't.

6. Should the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority commission a significantly greater proportion of training programmes that are based solely in this region at foundation and higher specialty level?

ASPH is one of the largest providers of postgraduate education in the South East, employing 232 junior doctors, of which 90 are at Foundation level. We have trainees from KSS and London Deaneries. We link with Imperial College, St George's and Brighton universities. We are located across the north of Surrey and on the London border. This can be seen as a successful postgraduate education system within the South East and one that we would wish all future arrangements to recognize and support the continued development of this. In practice this will be done by creating arrangements whereby we can commission the best postgraduate education for each speciality and grade, through: • Accessing world class academics and training programmes from London Teaching Hospitals • Increasing the training programmes provided at ASPH • Linking with training programmes arranged out of Brighton The South Thames foundation training programme is the most popular in the country and attracts high quality trainees. It is very important that this continues.

7. What principles should justify continued use, and funding, of out-of-region training posts, in London or in the South Central region?

Within ASPH's postgraduate education system we would expect to continue to support trainees on rotation with out of region providers. The principles that should be used to identify these should include: • It meets the need of the curriculum • If the training cannot be provided in the south east • Fill-rate – the ability to attract high quality trainees • Accessing world class training from Teaching Hospitals • Secures future supply of medical staff.

8. Do you agree with the Strategic Health Authority Executive Team's analysis that it should keep the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery within the NHS?

We do.

9. If you disagree, what would you prefer the Strategic Health Authority to do and why?

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10. Do you have a preference for

    A. making the Deanery accountable to another Director at the Strategic Health Authority, other than the Executive responsible for education commissioning (the **separate accountability option**), or

    B. treating the Deanery as an arm's-length agency within the Strategic Health Authority (the **arm's-length option**) or

    C. transferring the Deanery to an existing NHS organisation in the region (the **transfer option**)?

During the consultation we have had some discussion with colleagues about a proposal for the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust to host the Deanery. On balance we can see that there could be many merits to this approach. We have our own successful postgraduate education system based upon our proximity to London, and we have sought to represent this in our answers to questions 2, 6 and 7. We can see that the ambitions to host the Deanery in Brighton and our wish to support postgraduate education in the South East whilst making the most of the our geographical location could be mutually supportive if: • We played a full role in an effective consultative committee • We had commissioning flexibility to access and develop the best possible training posts around our system

11. Do you support the development of collaborative networks? Do you think that one or more networks are necessary in the region?

We would support collaborative networks that drive improvement in training and services.

12. Do you agree that SEMMED and the Library and Knowledge Management teams should remain part of Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery? If you disagree, what would you prefer the Strategic Health Authority to do and why?

We do.

Other comments

If you have any other comments you wish to make please use this text box.

The founding principle of determing the organisation of postgraduate education for doctors, dentists, and pharmacists in NHS SEC should, in our view, meet the simple test of providing leading edge healthcare through an ongoing supply of healthcare professionals who benefit from training programmes which are world class.

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