

*Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust*

Creating a pathology network for West Yorkshire and Harrogate Staff update – 7 May 2019

This briefing is to keep you up to date on the work to develop a network approach to pathology services in West Yorkshire and Harrogate. It is sent on behalf of the Pathology Collaboration Group, which is leading the work on the WYAAT pathology programme and comprises the pathology clinical and managerial leads from each trust.

Developing service models

Since the briefing sent by the trust chief executives in March, work has been focused on collecting all the data required to fully model the approaches we have identified so far and determine if they are feasible. We have been using LTS, a specialist pathology consultancy, to do this, who met with service managers and HR and IT leads at each trust during April to collect and discuss a wide range of information relating to their pathology services. The collated findings and modelling will be presented back to the Pathology Collaborative Group and senior clinical representatives from each discipline at a series of meetings over the next couple of weeks to determine a short-list of feasible options and sites. This will then be shared with staff and discussed at the all staff workshops we are holding during the w/c 20 May – please see below for details.

Staff Workshops

Hopefully you'll have received the invitation to the three workshops being held to discuss the short-listed models and get your views on the suggested approaches. All trusts have committed to releasing as many staff as possible to contribute so if you would be interested in attending, please get permission from your manager and then register online by clicking on the relevant link:

- [21 May - 1.30 - 4.30pm - Bradford City Football Club](#)
- [22 May - 1.30 - 4.30pm - Wakefield Cedar Court Hotel](#)
- [24 May - 9am - 12pm - Leeds Marriott Hotel](#)

Programme Support

Strong clinical leadership is vital to help us deliver the pathology programme and we are currently in the process of recruiting a clinical lead and programme manager. Interviews will take place later this month, and we are also recruiting a scientist lead.

Programme Board update

A Programme Board has been established to oversee the development of the network. This is chaired by Martin Barkley, Chief Executive of Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust, and comprises executive director leads from each trust covering operations (Airedale and Mid Yorkshire), finance (Leeds), HR (Harrogate), IT (Bradford), and medical director (Calderdale & Huddersfield). The Board has been meeting monthly since mid-March and has assured the plans for developing the outline business case and staff communications. The Board is also overseeing the other elements of the pathology workstream, which include the procurement of a common Laboratory Information Management System and the rollout of digital cellular pathology across all trusts.

In addition, discussions have taken place regarding the proposal for HDFT to join Integrated Pathology Solutions (the Airedale and Bradford Joint Venture) and assurance provided to NHS Improvement that this aligns with the plans to form a regional network.

Other work

The collaboration group has agreed to set up two sub groups to help move on key areas of work while the network approach is being developed. These are the Pathology Efficiency Sub-Group, which will share ideas and practices to improve efficiency and potentially identify areas to collaborate on, and the Workforce Development Sub-Group, which will identify opportunities to work together on initiatives enhance the supply and skills of pathology staff in WY&H, such as apprenticeships and extended roles.

Keeping you updated

During April, we have been holding a series of meetings for staff at all trusts to explain the process for developing the network in more detail and share the initial thinking about potential models. So far these have been held at CHFT, Integrated Pathology Solutions and LTHT, with meetings for MYHT staff taking place this week and those for HDFT to follow shortly.

We are developing a dedicated section on the WYAAT website for all the information relating to the network development, including the questions and answers from all the meetings. This will be available shortly and in the meantime, you can also raise any questions you may have by emailing us at wyaatpathology@nhs.net