

Dear Member

The association has been forwarded the following information and we feel it is necessary to keep you updated on what is happening to our NHS.

We just can't believe this. As an area we need more hospital facilities, not less. We felt in the past that we needed to be concerned about mission creep. Well, mission creep looks like it's about to start galloping!!!

We have included the whole message, so that you are fully aware of the situation. We feel that the NHS bureaucrats are looking out for themselves and not the residents of Southend-on-Sea or residents in our other local authorities. It is getting to a point that the only solution to this sorry state of affairs is to bring the CCG's (who are financially in trouble) under the control of the Council, and within 5 years the hospital. That way residents will have control over our local NHS with their votes, and it will not be out of our control through the failures of Bureaucrats. By the council taking over the local NHS, including the hospital, economies of scale will be created, with financial security, without risking the health of local residents.

Hi, Ron - well now we have the whole story. Read it and wonder at the sheer arrogance of Panniker the hospital's chief executive:

BREAKING NEWS ++STOP PRESS++ READ AND SHARE!

Plans are being considered to merge Southend, Basildon and Broomfield Hospitals in a bid to save money. SEE ARTICLE BELOW!

Huge implications for Southend and the staff at all three Trusts. Could this lead to the downgrade of our A&E that we all fought so hard to stop last year? The merger will make it far easier to reduce services available at each individual site and centralise care - further away from resident's homes. This is another blow to the populations of Mid and South Essex and especially Southend on sea locality who are set to lose the greatest amount of acute hospital services under the STP. Staff will be shunted all over to accommodate the restructure of acute services at different sites - many experienced staff will leave, paving the way to recruit less qualified, less experienced cheaper alternatives and the patients will have no choice where they are seen due to the removal of some key specialities from each site (mainly Southend) and the merger will open opportunity for more commercial private investors to be involved in NHS service provision.

Now more than ever the people of #Essex need to wake up and realise that our local hospital is under severe and imminent threat and you need to make your collective voices heard! #SaveSouthendNHS

EXCLUSIVE : Senior leaders of three trusts to recommend merger

By James Illman (Health Service Journal) 9th January 2018

Chief and senior team of three Essex trusts to recommend full merger to

boards on Wednesday

- Merged trust would be one of biggest providers in the NHS*
- Trusts previously said they had “no intention” to merge and campaigners will oppose move*

The joint chief executive and senior team of three Essex acute trusts will recommend controversial plans to merge next year to create one of the largest trusts in the NHS, HSJ can reveal.

Leaders from Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals Foundation Trust, Southend University Hospital FT and Mid Essex Hospital Services Trust will discuss the move at their joint leadership team meeting tomorrow.

Clare Panniker

Clare Panniker: ‘The recommended option is for our trusts to work towards becoming a single organisation’

The trusts have been developing a “group model” to run their hospitals under one leadership team with a “flexible workforce” since 2016.

However, the original group model agreement said there was no intention to merge the trusts – and the change will face fierce hostility from local campaigners, clinicians and politicians if it gets the green light.

A merged entity would have combined revenue of £945m making it the eleventh biggest NHS provider, based on last year’s turnover figures.

Clare Panniker, who is chief executive of all three trusts in an unprecedented arrangement, is leading the proposals.

A paper for the board meeting, written by other senior executives on the joint leadership team, said: “Our aspiration would be for a new organisation to come into being by April 2019.”

The recommendation follows an “appraisal exercise” in December by KPMG. “The preferred outcome of the options appraisal scoring exercise was for a proposed three way merger,” the report said.

Lobby group Save Southend NHS, which is supported by several local senior clinicians who have spoken to HSJ, said it was “very much opposed to the merger [because it] would inevitably lead to a reduction in the number of services available locally to patients; plus the potential implications for staff contracts, conditions and pay are huge too”.

Save Southend NHS secretary Mike Fieldhouse said: “We want to see a fully operational general hospital kept at each site and not one hospital with three sites. If a merger happens we have no doubt that individual specialist services will be

concentrated on one site, meaning patients will have to travel much further for treatment.

“In all likelihood, [NHS leaders] would create an A&E ‘super centre’ at Basildon and downgrade Southend and Broomfield to walk-in centres – exactly what we and the vast majority of local residents have been fighting so hard to resist.”

Ms Panniker said in a statement to HSJ: “A number of options on the way we work together in the longer term have been tested in a rigorous appraisal process carried out by members of the three boards, individual site leadership teams [and] governors/patient council representatives.

“The recommended option is to work as one organisation and for our trusts to work towards becoming a single organisation on 1 April 2019.

“If the boards of each trust approve the recommended option, the next step will be to produce a strategic business case to set out what needs to be done to seek the formal approval of our regulators, our councils of governors, and presents the opportunity to engage more widely with our stakeholders and local community.”

The news comes with the trusts consulting until March on a major acute reconfiguration. The plans have been significantly watered down since they were first discussed in 2016, following patient and clinician opposition.

The East of England Clinical Senate’s review, published in February 2017, warned the plans attempted to try to retain virtually all the current services on all three acute sites.

The senate said the plans would not deliver long term sustainability and advocated a “bolder” approach, which could involve one of the three emergency departments being upgraded and one downgraded to a minor injuries unit.

Source

Information obtained by HSJ

Source date

January 2018

In response, Clare Panniker - Chief Executive of all three hospital has issued this response:

Dear colleagues

As you will be aware since 2016 our three trusts have worked within a collaborative group model and are managed by a single joint executive group overseen by a strategic joint working board.

I am writing to let you know that our three trust boards will be meeting on

Wednesday (tomorrow) and will be asked to approve the start of the formal process to merge the three organisations.

I know from my conversations with many of you and from the feedback we have heard in staff briefing sessions that a longer term decision around how we work together will help bring some clarity and certainty to our teams.

As a collective the trusts are passionate about providing quality services that are the best possible provision for our local populations. And I believe discussing how we will operate in the future supports the delivery of sustainable services from all three hospitals, working together as one that is clinically, financially and organisationally stronger.

At the meeting, which will be held in public, the three boards will separately decide whether or not to accept the recommendations in a report made following an options appraisal.

A number of options on the way we work together in the longer term have been tested in a rigorous appraisal process carried out by members of the boards, individual site leadership teams, governors/patient council representatives and commissioner representatives.

The recommended option is to work as one organisation and for our trusts to work towards becoming a single organisation from 1 April 2019.

If the boards of each trust approve the recommended option, the next step will be to produce a strategic business case to set out what needs to be done to seek the formal approval of our regulators, our councils of governors and presents the opportunity to engage more widely with our stakeholders and local community and your our staff.

For more information the board papers can be viewed here [http://www.southend.nhs.uk/about-us/joint-working-board-\(jwb\)/](http://www.southend.nhs.uk/about-us/joint-working-board-(jwb)/)

I will of course update on the outcome of the decision and look forward to talking with many more of you as this work progresses. In the meantime should you have any comments or concerns please contact a member of your site leadership team or the joint executive group.

With kind regards

*Clare Panniker
Chief Executive*

Sign the petition <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-mid-south-essex-stop-downgrading-southend-hospital> share our page and join us at Pier Hill Sat 27th January 2018 12pm to rally and make our voices heard!!