

Media Release

Friday, March 29 2019

WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY TO PROCEED AS PLANNED

Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust can go ahead with its wholly-owned subsidiary as planned – after almost a year of consultation and development.

This evening (Friday, March 29 2019) the Trust received long-awaited confirmation from NHS Improvement (NHSI) that the final stage of implementing its company - Derbyshire Support and Facilities Services (DSFS) can be concluded.

The Regulator made its decision earlier today - after considering the Trust's business case proposals under a new national policy and guidelines.

It means that over the next 48 hours the Trust will finish all the legalities and processes that enable DSFS to be created by the end of the month.

And as result, around 730 staff - in IT, finance, procurement, clinical engineering, estates and facilities - will transfer to DSFS on April 1 2019, working for the independent company, although still very much a part of the Trust's 'family'. They will move with their NHS terms and conditions fully protected under TUPE regulations. The Trust has guaranteed these protections – including pay, NHS pension, length of service and annual leave – for 25 years, the length of the subsidiary's initial contract period.

Director of Finance and Contracting at the Royal, Lee Outhwaite comments: "We have been consulting with staff, union representatives and all of our stakeholders since May last year. The Board of Directors made this difficult decision in July 2018, believing that it is the best way to safeguard a range of valuable and essential services. In a challenging NHS climate the company is set to protect jobs from the risk of third party outsourcing, reduced staffing numbers and even potential redundancies.

DSFS will work alongside the Trust's clinical portfolio – making sure that patients and staff have access to first-class healthcare facilities. Services will operate to best practice quality standards, in a cost effective way - giving the public value for the money they put into the NHS.

Mr Outhwaite continues: "Our new subsidiary, 100% owned by Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust remains very much a part of the Trust's 'family'. As such, our ambition is to provide the best possible services to patients and colleagues; and importantly to make sure DSFS is a great company for people to be part of - where everyone is appreciated for the valuable work they do."

ENDS

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