

**Select Committee on Good Health – 29 March 2006**

**Report of Head of Personnel and Support Services, Lead Officer, Health Scrutiny**

**The Future Development of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust.**

**“Consulting Our Public – seeking your views on our application for NHS Foundation Trust Status”.**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To bring to the attention of members the Consultation Paper from Dudley Group of Hospitals about its application for Foundation Hospital Status and to invite members to make decisions as appropriate.

**Background**

2. At the meeting of the committee in January 2006 Members received an informal presentation about progress of Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust towards Foundation Trust status. The document now presented to the March meeting is the formal Consultation Document for members to comment upon.
3. The Consultation period ends on 21 May 2006. This presents a difficulty since after the 28 March meeting the Committee will not meet again until July 2006. As the Committee has already had a presentation about the Foundation status application, the details of which are exactly the same as those contained in the formal consultation document, and have had the opportunity to ask questions about the application, the Chairman considers that the Committee can now move straight to a discussion and decision about the proposals without further assistance from DGOH officers.
4. The Document sets out “Consultation Questions” after each major section and gathers all these together on a “Consultation Response Form” on pages 25 and 26. Members should not feel constrained by the format of these questions because they are free to respond to the consultation in whatever way seems best to them. For the convenience of Members, health scrutiny officers have drawn up a paper giving a “bare bones” response to the questions. Members are invited to add, subtract, amend or omit or agree any of these questions. This paper will be sent to Members separately.

## **Finance**

5. It is amongst the principles of a Foundation Trust that it needs to manage its finances in a business-like way. A new aspect in financial terms will be the ability of Foundation Trusts to raise money from sources other than Government.

## **Law**

6. The Health and Social Care Act 2003 established NHS foundation trusts as independent public benefit corporations modelled on co-operative and mutual traditions.

Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 inserts in section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 the power for overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise health services.

The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002.

## **Equality Impact**

7. The vision and values of the DGOH for the new Foundation Trust includes reference to treating patients and staff fairly.

## **Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that:-

the Select Committee receives and comments on the Consultation Document.



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## **List of Background Papers**

None