



Julia Ross
Chief Executive Officer,
BNSSG CCG / ICS
Julia.ross@nhs.net

Sent by e-mail

Elizabeth O'Mahony
Regional Director, South West Region
South West House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

e.omahony@nhs.net

20 May 2021

Dear Julia

Re: Regional Director Assurance of the BNSSG Stroke Service Reconfiguration Proposals

My thanks to you and the BNSSG Team for the extensive work which has been carried out to develop your Stroke Service Reconfiguration proposals to such a high standard, at the same time as responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, and for the constructive manner in which the BNSSG Team have addressed the points arising from discussions with our local service reconfiguration assurance panel on 25 February and 10 May 2021.

Statement of Assurance

Following consideration of the evidence presented and discussion at the assurance meetings held on 25 February and 10 May 2021, this scheme is Fully Assured against the four Key Tests, NHS England Patient Care "Beds Test", Finance and Other Best Practice requirements:

Test	Panel finding
Test 1 - Strong Public & Patient Engagement / Stakeholder Engagement	Stage 2 Fully Assured
Test 2 - Consistency with current & prospective need for Patient Choice	Stage 2 Fully Assured
Test 3 - Clear Clinical Evidence Base	Stage 2 Fully Assured
Test 4 - Support from Clinical Commissioners	Stage 2 Fully Assured
Test 5 - NHS Beds Test	Stage 2 Fully Assured
Financial Assurance	Stage 2 Fully Assured*
Implementation Plan	Stage 2 Fully Assured
Other Best Practice Checks	Stage 2 Fully Assured

Notes:

* With regards to the Financial Assurance of these proposals, the Stage 2 Meeting on 25 February 2021 noted that:

- *The community of BNSSG Directors of Finance agreed that the revenue costs of the new service model needed to be within 10-12% of the existing baseline, and that this had been achieved, with the additional potential mitigation of prioritised system funding to ensure the scheme is delivered.*

- *System savings of £0.5m have been agreed as part of the financial position to address overhead growth.*
- *The financial case does not assume any capital expenditure, including on estates with the intention being to use existing estates capacity.*

A positive Stage 2 Assurance recommendation was issued by Laura Nicholas, Director of Strategic Transformation & Locality Director on 17 May 2021.

I am aware that the ICS is keen to move things forward, I am therefore content for the BNSSG Stroke Service Reconfiguration proposals to proceed to public consultation on 7 June 2021, subject to the following conditions being met:

- 1) BNSSG to provide NHSEI with a copy of their final consultation materials, including “easy read” versions of the consultation document and consultation survey, prior to launching their public consultation.
- 2) The final PCBC, consultation plan, consultation documents, and data protection impact assessment (DPIA) being reviewed by the CCG’s Governing Body as part of the Governing Body’s consideration of their decision to proceed to consultation.

For the avoidance of doubt, my agreement to proceed to public consultation does not constitute approval or sign-off for:

- Capital expenditure or confirmation of capital availability. This is a particularly significant point given the constrained national capital funding position.
- Control totals for the trusts or surplus / deficit for the CCG for future years.
- Any other funding beyond routine allocations

I wish you and colleagues every success in taking forward these proposals.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth O'Mahony
Regional Director, South West Region

Cc:

BNSSG ICS:

Robert Woolley, Joint CEO, BNSSG ICS (robert.woolley3@nhs.net)
 Rebecca Dunn, Deputy Director of Transformation (rebecca.dunn8@nhs.net)
 Jeremy Westwood, Transformation Project Manager (jeremy.westwood@nhs.net)
 Sian Barry, Stroke Programme Director (sian.barry5@nhs.net)
 Chris Burton, Medical Director at NBT (Chris.Burton@nbt.nhs.uk)
 Phil Clatworthy, Lead Director for Stroke Health Integration Team (philip.clatworthy@nbt.nhs.uk)
 Alex Ward Booth, Head of Insights & Public Engagement (alex.ward-booth1@nhs.net)
 Glyn Howells, Director of Finance (glyn.howells@nhs.net)
 Anthony Dorman, People Business Partner at NBT (Anthony.Dorman@nbt.nhs.uk)

NHSEI:

Sue Doheny, Director of Nursing and Exec Lead for BNSSG (sue.doheny@nhs.net)
 Laura Nicholas, Director of Strategic Transformation & Locality Director (l.nicholas@nhs.net)
 Ajike Ali-Ameh, Head of the SW Clinical Senate (ajike.alliamah@nhs.net)
 Linzi Holden, Head of Operational Finance (linzi.holden@nhs.net)
 Claire Stanley, Senior Communications and Engagement Manager (claire.stanley5@nhs.net)
 Helen Edmunds, Head of Workforce and OD (helen.edmunds3@nhs.net)
 Heath Cormack, Head of Digital (heath.cormack@nhs.net)
 Greg Martin, Senior Commissioner within Specialised Commissioning (greg.martin3@nhs.net)