

22 March 2023

## Update on proposals to develop a new NHS community, mental health and learning disability organisation for Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Dear colleague,

We write to update you on Project Fusion, our plan to create a new organisation bringing together community, mental health and learning disability services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

We are pleased to inform you that the Strategic Case has been formally approved by the Boards of the four provider Trusts, has Integrated Care Board support, and has now been shared with NHS England for review.

The Strategic Case is a first milestone along the path to creating the new organisation by April 2024. It describes why we want to bring services together, the options we considered, and the emerging strategy for our clinical services. It also sets out how we are approaching the next phase of the programme. An executive summary of the Strategic Case is enclosed.

Already, Project Fusion is enabling clinical colleagues from across the organisations involved to further extend the way they work together. There is real enthusiasm about the opportunities that becoming a single organisation will bring, to benefit the people using services and local communities.

We very much value the involvement of our partners in this programme to date. Our initial engagement activity has been focused on gathering views from a wide range of people. These have helped inform the strategic case, including identifying benefits and opportunities and the hopes and concerns people have about the prospect of a single organisation.

In the coming months we will extend our engagement and partnership working. This includes involving people in the development of the clinical strategy for the proposed new Trust, the vision, common values, and culture to which the new Trust should aspire, as well as the models for communication, engagement and co-production. This will inform the development of a Full Business Case, due for approval by Trust Boards in October 2023.

Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss any aspect of these plans. We look forward to continuing working alongside you.

Kind regards,

**Darren Cattell**  
Chief Executive  
Isle of Wight NHS Trust

**Andrew Strevens**  
Chief Executive  
Solent NHS Trust

**Ron Shields**  
Chief Executive  
Southern Health NHS  
Foundation Trust

**Dr Jane Padmore**  
Chief Executive  
Sussex Partnership NHS  
Foundation Trust



**PROJECT  
FUSION**

Bringing together community,  
mental health and learning  
disability services

## Background

Project Fusion involves all services provided by Solent NHS Trust and Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, as well as community, mental health and learning disability services provided by Isle of Wight NHS Trust, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provided in Hampshire by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Project Fusion is taking forward recommendations from the [review commissioned by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System](#) last year, which sought to provide a high-level overview of the current and future needs of the local population relating to community and mental health services. Findings from the review confirmed inequity and variation in services and outcomes across the local system, revealing a compelling case for change to ensure future provision meets the needs of our local population. One of the five recommendations was that a new Trust should be created with the aim of bringing together the best of community and mental health services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight. This work is also linked to the broader aim of reducing variation and, overcoming fragmentation across services and ensuring improved consistency of care, working in partnership, for the benefit of patients and service users in Hampshire and Isle of Wight.