

Planning letter and update

Purpose

This paper provides the Board with an update on planning for 2019/20, particularly in light of the NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Improvement (NHSI) joint letter (dated 16 October) regarding planning. The letter itself is included at Appendix 1.

Background

Planning for 2019/20 should be considered in the context of the following:

- The five-year funding settlement for the NHS from 2019/20 to 2023/24;
- The development of a Long Term Plan plan for the NHS, which will be published in late November of early December;
- The ongoing development of the Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System (ICS), which has made positive strides towards integrated planning, particularly at Integrated Care Partnership/Provider (ICP) level;
- The current refresh of the SFH strategy.

National requirements

Whilst preparations for planning have already begun within SFH, the mid-Nottinghamshire ICP and the Nottinghamshire ICS, the letter from NHSE and NHSI sets out some helpful expectations, principles and indicative timescales.

In particular, the letter describes the requirement for each organisation to submit a one year plan for 2019/20. The letter also asks for STPs to 'aggregate' organisational plans, ensuring alignment between commissioners and providers. However, building on the approach taken last year, our collective ambition across Nottinghamshire (and particularly at ICP level) is to go further than this and approach planning in a more integrated and collaborative way.

In addition to the one year plan, the letter outlines the requirement for all STPs and ICSs to develop a five year plan, in response to the national Long Term Plan.

The key timescales for each of the above are as follows:

- Late November / Early December 2018 – publication of the NHS Long Term Plan
- Early December 2018 – publication of the planning guidance
- Mid December 2018 – publication of control totals for 19/20
- 14th January 2019 – Initial 19/20 plan submission (focus on activity and efficiency)
- 12th February 2019 – Draft 19/20 plan submission
- 21st March 2019 – Contract signature deadline (for 19/20)
- 4th April 2019 – Final 19/20 plan submission to NHSI
- Summer 2019 – STP / ICS five-year plans signed off

Planning principles

The letter highlights a series of planning principles of note, but further details are expected to be included in the planning guidance and associated publications. These include:

- Control totals are to remain in place for 19/20 only and the Sustainability and Transformation Funds (STF) for providers and commissioners will be phased out. Thus, 19/20 will be a transitional year away from these mechanisms of managing provider finances;
- The national expectation is that in 19/20 plans and contracts will be realistic and ‘fully aligned’ between commissioners and providers;
- The CQUIN scheme will be simplified and reduced in value (with an offsetting increase in core prices).

Local approach to planning

Within SFH, we have reconvened our Planning Oversight Group and in accordance with the second point above, we continue to work with our partners to plan collaboratively. This includes the establishment and fortnightly meetings of the:

- Mid-Nottinghamshire Planning Group (comprising commissioners and providers);
- Nottinghamshire-wide ICS Planning Group (comprising ICS partners)

Collectively, we are developing a consistent approach to planning and shared timetables to ensure our planning activities are well coordinated. Challenges remain in the synthesising of individual organisational requirements and ensuring that the work of each organisation compliments the work of the others in planning for 2019/20. However, a series of agreed planning principles are in place and there is a shared will to build on last year’s progress.

SFH Strategy

It is also worth acknowledging that the requirements set out in the letter come at a time when the SFH five-year strategy is being refreshed. Nothing in the letter should change the approach we are taking or the emerging, overarching and longer term themes of our strategy. However, it does reinforce the view that some of the more detailed parts of our strategy (particularly the measurable objectives) should be focused on 19/20. As such, the outputs of the staff and public engagement work will feed into our plans for 19/20 and the Trust wide objectives will provide a framework for divisional objective setting for 19/20. This will help to prevent duplication.

Next steps

Within SFH, work has already commenced on defining our ‘do nothing’ scenario for 19/20, with the aim that this will be complete for the end of November. In addition, we aim to focus on the following areas ahead of the publication of the planning guidance:

- Gaining an initial understanding of known changes to activity, capacity and finances in 19/20, through engagement with the Divisions;
- Working with ICP partners to develop and influence system-wide improvement/savings schemes;
- Working with ICP and ICS partners to refine our shared planning timetable in light of the letter.

Once the planning guidance has been received, a more detailed update will be provided to the Board, including a summary of emerging themes and risks.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- **Note** the key messages from the NHSI / NHSE joint letter
- **Note** the preparatory planning work that has begun in SFH, mid-Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire
- **Note** the consistency of the approach to planning for 19/20 with the objective setting elements of the strategy development work