

Trust Headquarters
South Block
St. Mary's Hospital
NEWPORT
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TG

20th November 2014

Dear Colleague

Our partnership with Ryhurst Ltd

I am writing to you because our announcement on Monday 17th November about our partnership with Ryhurst Ltd and the creation of our joint venture, Wight Life Partnership, has raised some concerns. Unfortunately our announcement was not as clear as it should have been. I hope that this letter provides you with more information which is clear but if you have any questions after reading this please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Trust's Clinical Strategy, developed in 2013 and early 2014 with contributions from many Island organisations, indicates that we will in the future focus services in three places – St. Mary's Hospital, three community clinic Hubs (the first one is due to open in Ryde in early 2015) and in people's homes. With changes in medical science and technology it is now possible to deliver many more treatments in or closer to a patient's home and this means that some of the buildings at St. Mary's – the older buildings including and south of the old Workhouse - will not be required in the future for the delivery of healthcare or as offices for support staff.

We have an excellent team of staff who help us maintain our buildings and land in the best possible condition. Our Clinical Strategy requires changes to our buildings and land to enable us to deliver excellent services to our patients in the future. To do this we have recognised that we need more expertise in the area of developing our estate and we also need access to investors who can put up the capital to enable us to make these changes to our Estate, as our current capital allocation will not be sufficient to make this happen.

The partnership we have entered into with Ryhurst is non-exclusive. That means that if we don't think that Ryhurst are the right people for a particular project we can seek advice, support and finance from elsewhere. However Ryhurst were selected following a competitive tender and have substantial experience in the management of buildings and land.

We don't have anything immediately planned or any hidden agenda. Our Clinical Strategy is a freely available document which is built on the views of clinicians and stakeholders. It reflects the way in which we think healthcare is developing and how we can meet the challenge of creating a sustainable health service for the Island for the future.



The partnership is not about privatising the NHS. It is about giving us access to expertise and finance. The partnership is one where the Trust is in control – Ryhurst cannot do anything without the Trust's agreement and of course significant change to services in the NHS is subject to formal consultation.

The partnership is exactly that – a joint venture in which the benefits and risks will be shared on a 50/50 basis.

We are of course happy to explain more about the arrangement even though we have no firm schemes planned at the moment. We had already planned a launch event on 4th December at which both the Trust and Ryhurst will be present. Those interested in attending that event should e-mail wlp@iow.nhs.uk or telephone 01983-822099 ext 5363. There will be lots of time at this event to discuss how the partnership can benefit the NHS and the Island as a whole. The Trust Board on the 3rd December will receive a report on the partnership but there will be less time available at this meeting compared to the event on 4th December.

We are of course very happy to provide more details about the initiative to the Health Scrutiny Sub Committee and other partners. This letter with enclosed Questions and Answers (Q&A) seeks to do that and I hope you will find this helpful. If you have any questions which are not addressed in the Q&A then do please send your questions to wlp@iow.nhs.uk. We will answer your question(s) and add them into the Q&A.

If you have any other concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Karen Baker
Chief Executive Officer

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