

The year ahead: April 2010–March 2011

Foundation Trust Network

The coming year looks set to be an especially challenging one for the NHS, with the changing political landscape and the pressures on public spending. Foundation trusts will be seeking to maintain and improve high standards of care while preparing for the next Comprehensive Spending Review in 2011. We aim to support authorised and aspirant foundation trusts alike by strengthening and improving our member offer and ensuring we remain a valuable part of the foundation trust community.

Recognising the challenges that you face in 2010/11 and the need to deliver high-quality and sustainable member services, we have reviewed our entire work programme to ensure our services are both accessible and cost effective over the coming years. In 2010/11 we will:

- continue our push on the Private Patient Income Cap to allow foundation trusts the freedom to innovate and work in partnership to develop services to benefit NHS patients
- influence the regulatory environment to promote a light-touch, streamlined approach that promotes quality and avoids double jeopardy
- support foundation trusts' engagement in the Quality, Improvement, Productivity and Prevention programme (QIPP)
- support foundation trusts on quality and Quality Accounts
- promote foundation trusts as part of the solution to the challenges facing the public sector
- ensure FTs can access relevant knowledge and skills development opportunities in key areas such as commercial and productivity issues, mergers and acquisitions, clinical leadership and HR.

"The strength of the FTN is that it listens to its constituents (particularly through the network meetings) and therefore picks up the items which are of greatest concern to FTs."

Chief executive, authorised acute

Our plans for 2010/11

Our work programme has four strategic objectives:

Influencing the external environment in which foundation trusts operate

We will work to influence the external environment, to protect and promote the operating freedoms of foundation trusts, and promote changes that allow foundation trusts to be part of the solution to the challenges facing the UK public sector. For more information about this workstream, visit:

www.nhsconfed.org/ftninfluencing

Enhancing the reputation of foundation trusts and embedding the foundation trust brand

We are working to raise the public profile of foundation trusts, locally and nationally, and to build and enhance the foundation trust brand. We are seeking to embed support for the foundation trust model across all political parties and will continue our work to influence current and future governments. For more information on our plans in 2010/11 go to: www.nhsconfed.org/ftncommunications

Supporting performance improvement in foundation trusts

We will identify the current and future needs of our members in terms of supporting foundation trusts to improve performance in key areas:

- self-governing to the highest standards – including our governance conference, development opportunities for executive directors, and support for governors
- contributing to the sustainability of the wider healthcare system – covering the preparation programme for aspirant trusts to support the effective roll out of foundation trusts
- continuous improvement at all levels – including support on Quality Accounts, mentoring, developing links between FTs and FTSE companies, and our benchmarking programme.

For more information about this area of work, visit:

www.nhsconfed.org/ftnsupport

Building a high-quality organisation

During 2010/11, we will be focusing on developing our systems and processes to deliver member services more efficiently and effectively, including developing our website.

Snapshot of 2009/10

In 2009/10 we worked to:

- influence the external environment in which foundation trusts operate
- enhance the reputation of foundation trusts and the foundation trust brand
- support performance improvement on foundation trusts
- build the FTN as a high-quality organisation.

Highlights of the year include:

- The health bill, which received royal assent on 12 November 2009, gave mental health foundation trusts a private patient income cap of 1.5 per cent following FTN lobbying. The Government has now launched a review of the Private Patient Income Cap.
- We ran a programme of work to support members to use Quality Accounts as the driver for integrating a quality approach throughout the organisation, with ownership at board level and strong involvement at all stages from stakeholders. We ran a series of masterclasses to share learning among members, produced a 'how to' guide to support members in developing their accounts and showcased the progress made by foundation trusts in a new publication and seminar.
- Our annual governance conference was attended by more than 450 delegates and looked at leadership in challenging times, corporate governance, regulation, the role of the board, membership and governors.
- We launched a course for foundation trust company secretaries, in partnership with Manchester Business School, University of Manchester. This course allows foundation trust company secretaries to understand foundation trusts within the broader context of health policy while exploring in-depth legal and governance issues.



- Our benchmarking programme had 65 participating trusts in 2009/10. The programme allows trusts to build a bottom-up understanding of the actual costs of individual procedures and compare cost and performance data set against clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction. In 2010/11, the programme will focus on projects that help members to respond to economic, tariff and QIPP-related challenges.

"The FTN has an open and responsive involvement strategy."
 Director, authorised mental health trust

About the Foundation Trust Network

The Foundation Trust Network was established in 2004 as part of the NHS Confederation to provide a distinct voice for NHS foundation trusts. We have an independent board elected by our members, made up of chairs and chief executives from authorised acute and mental health foundation trusts as well as representatives from aspirant foundation trusts. Our chair is Julie Acred, chief executive of Derby University Hospitals NHS FT and our network director is Sue Slipman. For more details about the FTN Board go to: www.nhsconfed.org/ftnboard

