

To: NHS PCT Chief Executives
NHS Trust Chief Executives

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Dear Colleague,

Southern Programme for IT (SPfIT) – Update for NHS organisations across the South

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on the progress being made as reported to the SPfIT Programme Board held on the 12th October 2010.

The ‘award winning’ RiO Implementation Programme

It was a reflection of hard work of those involved, that the Southern and London Programmes for IT won this year’s e-Health Insider Award for ‘Excellence in Major Healthcare IT Development’. This category recognised the work of suppliers and healthcare IT teams tackling major projects in the UK, and recognises the South’s work supporting the improvement of patient care in community and mental health settings. Richard Caves, South West SHA Chief Information Officer and Senior Responsible Officers (SRO) of the RiO Programme in the South, accompanied by Trust SRO and Projects Managers from Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Berkshire East PCT, along with London colleagues received the award at the ceremony on 6th October 2010. The award illustrates the progress the South has made since the termination of the Fujitsu contract on 28th May 2008.

There are now 18 RiO Trusts live across the South, following Solent Healthcare East (formerly Portsmouth City PCT) going live on 20 September 2010. Surrey Community Health (formerly Surrey PCT) and Oxford and Buckinghamshire MH NHS Foundation Trust are planning to go live during November 2010.

Cerner Millennium Live Site Upgrades

Each of the seven Trusts live with Cerner Millennium is taking advantage of the ‘LC1’ functional upgrade, which delivers a range of clinical and operational benefits to the Trusts, such as the delivery of Order Communications and providing a foundation for future investments.

Working to base-lined plans, all Trusts are progressing towards the pre-requisite upgrade steps. The first Trust, Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust, successfully received its first technical upgrade in September and is on schedule to receive its second later this month which is the final stepping stone to their ‘LC1’ upgrade. The remaining Trusts are also all on track to receive their first technical upgrade.

Cerner Greenfield Implementation Programme

The programme continues with Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust completing its Design Review in the week commencing 27th September 2010 with excellent attendance from the Trust, and North Bristol NHS Trust completing its Design Review this week at the Cerner facility in Paddington. All three Trusts are now in the Configure stage of the project. There is a continuing focus this month to base-line local Trust and programme level plans for those activities between now and the Trusts go-live dates in 2011.

Additional Supply Capability and Capacity (ASCC) Procurement- help required

The ASCC procurement is for 'off the shelf' proven clinical software products and services, designed to address the gap in provision of the detailed care record to sites not receiving BT LSP deployments.

Following reaffirmation by the September National Programme Board that the ASCC procurements should continue across Community and Child Health, Ambulance, and Acute systems, preparations to restart these procurements have continued apace pending Ministerial agreement.

While the Community and Child Health, and Ambulance requirements and Business Cases are essentially complete, the Outline Business Case and solution requirements for Acute Trusts are being developed. Work on Integration and the Tranche 2 requirements PAS, Clinical Documents and Scheduling Solutions needs to accelerate. Your organisations assistance is important to ensure the requirements gathered reflect your needs. The involvement of both clinical and non-clinical staff is key to gathering the requirements and defining the evaluation approach.

Comprehensive Spending Review

As mentioned in my last letter, the Ministerial statement on the National Programme for IT made on the 9th September 2010 stated the remaining work of the programme (such as ASCC) largely involves local systems and services, and the Government believes these should now be driven by local NHS organisations. It also noted that existing contracts would be honoured which means that the contracted BT LSP work continues as planned. Therefore, due to the important nature of the systems we are deploying, the Comprehensive Spending Review is expected to have limited impact on the Southern Programme for IT.

I hope you find these updates useful. Please contact your SHA CIO, or the SPfIT Delivery Director Tom Denwood, if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Candy Morris
Chief Executive
NHS South East Coast