

8<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**Gateway reference: 17113**

To: SHA Cluster Chief Executives  
SHA Cluster Directors of Provider Development  
SHA Cluster Provider Development Operational Leads

Dear Colleagues

**Launch of Single Operating Model: Part 1 - SHA Development and FT Assurance for NHS Trusts in the pipeline**

This letter indicates the launch of part 1 of the Single Operating Model (SOM) for SHA Clusters, focussing on SHA Development and FT Assurance.

Provided with this note is the main SOM document which details the rationale for this launch alongside the detail of the model and the associated tools to deliver this.

Also provided are write-able versions of the tools for use by SHA Clusters to support implementation of the SOM. Further tools may be issued following this launch to supplement these.

It will be important that this implementation of part 1 of the SOM is consistent with the wider governance infrastructures of provider development functions in SHA Clusters. Given this there will be an opportunity in the early stages of the implementation for SHA Clusters to feed back through provider development channels to ensure the objectives of the SOM can be achieved alongside achieving consistency with broader governance processes and structures.

The SOM will be supplemented over the next few months in relation to the elements covering the ongoing over-sight of NHS Trusts in relation to progress towards FT-readiness, the Department of Health's FT assurance process, consistency of decision making and approaches to supporting major transactions. Information and guidance will be issued to support these different aspects of the SOM as they are agreed and finalised.