

Context

1. Monitor has been working with Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (MSFT) to improve its financial performance and governance procedures since March 2009, when it was found in significant breach of its terms of authorisation.
2. The Trust Board and senior management team have made substantial progress improving the clinical care provided to patients and its governance arrangements and operational delivery, but these improvements need to be put on a sustainable long-term basis.
3. Monitor has therefore appointed a Contingency Planning Team (CPT) to draw up a plan to protect services for patients on behalf of the local community. It will deliver a final report and recommendation to Monitor by 31 March 2013.
4. The CPT is a consortium of experts led by Ernst & Young and supported by McKinsey & Co. Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor, Medical Director of the NHS Confederation, and Bob Alexander, Finance Director of the NHS Trust Development Authority, will respectively Chair Clinical and Finance/Operations steering groups.
5. This approach has been agreed with the Department of Health, Midlands and East Strategic Health Authority (SHA), the NHS Commissioning Board and the NHS Trust Development Authority.

Purpose and scope

6. As part of the review, the CPT will make an independent assessment as to the financial, clinical and operational sustainability of MSFT in its current form.
7. The CPT will work with commissioners to identify those services that should be “protected services” at the Trust. Protected services are those services which would need to be kept in operation in the event of provider failure in order to ensure there is no significant adverse impact on local health or health inequalities.
8. The CPT will engage with local commissioners and providers to explore the options for the future provision of all of the services currently provided by MSFT, including those unlikely to be formally designated as protected. It will evaluate whether changes to the pattern of services should be delivered through solvent restructuring or as part of a special administrative framework.
9. As part of this exercise the CPT will consult key local organisations, including the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Walsall NHS Trust, Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and Staffordshire & Stoke-On-Trent Partnership NHS Trust.
10. The CPT will also engage with a wide range of other stakeholders including representatives of the public, Members of Parliament, patient advocacy groups and Local Authorities.
11. The final report will make a recommendation to Monitor for the future configuration of the services currently supplied by MSFT, and the mechanism most appropriate to ensure that they are delivered on a sustainable basis for the benefit of the local population.

CPT governance

12. The CPT will make its recommendations to the Monitor Board.
13. The progress of the CPT will be overseen by senior representatives of Monitor, the Department of Health, the SHA, the NHS Commissioning Board and the NHS Trust Development Authority.