



Statement from Unite North West Health Committee on the anticipated merger between Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospital of South Manchester Foundation Trust.

28th March 2017

Unite believes that greater co-operation between hospital Trusts is beneficial to patients as it can bring cost savings, better treatment pathways, reductions in waiting times and other benefits. This co-operation would also help the NHS as a whole to work more efficiently. An enormous amount of money is wasted on hospital managers having to draft tenders for services, a process necessary because of the “NHS Internal Market”.

Despite this Unite has several points of concern about the proposed hospital merger.

- We are concerned that it is likely to mean services being offered on fewer sites than are currently available. This will mean that patients will have to travel further to access services.
- We know that as part of this merger and the other services redesign processes happening (Devolution Manchester, Healthier Together, Sustainability and Transformation Plans) that all affect Manchester; the Emergency Department at Wythenshawe will be downgraded. This means that the very sickest patients will have to travel further to get proper emergency care, which will impact on the outcomes for those patients.
- Due to all the changes happening to Health and Social Care in Manchester at the moment (Single Hospitals, Devolution, Healthier Together) it is very difficult to predict how these changes will eventually affect hospital services. Unite are concerned that we are making changes that are based on a budget that we already know is insufficient to do the job, with outcomes that are hard to predict.
- We are concerned that the merger (and the other changes listed above) will mean that there is a reduction in hospital beds without the effective increase in social care capacity and preventative health work that would counter balance the reduction in beds.
- We are also concerned about the affect the merger would have on the Trust Employees Terms and Conditions. As you know these are mostly covered by the National T&Cs in Agenda for Change but there are many others that are based on

the Individual Trusts Policies and Procedures. Unite is concerned that the merger will be used as an excuse to merge policies to the detriment of the Staff. Staff will also have a much reduced option of which Trust to work for if this merger goes ahead. They will not have the choice to work for a Trust with better T&Cs unless they travel a significant distance from where they live.

- Our final issue is the cost that this process has cost to the NHS, the amount of time and money that has already been put into it is significant. If the merger does not go ahead this money will have been wasted. If the merger does go ahead then further money will have to be pumped into it to continue down the complex path of merging two very large hospitals.