

**Trust Board Meeting****DATE:** 28 March 2012**TITLE:** Accountability Agreement**SPONSOR:** Richard Martin  
Director of Finance**REPORT FROM:** Fiona Smith,  
Director of Planning & Programmes**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To ratify the Trust's Accountability Agreement**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- The Department of Health (DH) have introduced a Single Operating Model model (SOM) to support and assure NHS trusts through their foundation trust (FT) applications. The rationale behind the introduction of the SOM is to:
  - Draw on best practice to develop a consistent approach to the development and assurance of aspirant FTs;
  - Enhance the processes underpinning the delivery of the FT pipeline;
  - Support the transition from SHA accountability for delivery of the FT pipeline to the NHS Trust Development Authority (NTDA) in April 2013.The SOM introduces one common set of tools, processes and guidance for FT development and application. The assurance process within the SOM are aligned with Monitor's authorisation approach around the three assessment criteria of Legally Constituted, Well Governed and Financially Viable
- The Accountability Agreement (AA) is one of the required elements of the SOM.
- The AA is a key supporting document to the Tripartite Formal Agreement (TFA), signed by the Trust on 27 May 2011. It describes the key deliverables that are pre-requisites to our successful FT application and the expectations of all parties towards their achievement. The AA demonstrates that Whittington NHS Trust has a plan with a definitive timeline to submit a Foundation Trust application to DH that is in line with the timescale agreed in the TFA
- The Trust Board reviewed the AA at a Board Seminar. The requested alterations to the detail contained have now been made and as delegated by the Board the AA has been signed by the CEO. In signing the AA the Trust acknowledges that the SHA will intervene if there is a sustained failure to deliver either the required levels of operational and financial performance or deliver the agreed trajectory to a successful FT application
- The AA has been reviewed by the North Central London Cluster and has been signed by the CEO Caroline Taylor.
- The AA was submitted to NHS London SHA on 16 March 2012.

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

1. To review and note the changes made to the AA
2. To ratify the AA

**APPENDICES: None**

**DECLARATION**

In completing this report, I confirm that the implications associated with the proposed action shown above have been considered – any exceptions are reported in the Supporting Information:

Implications for the NHS Constitution, CQC registration

Financial, regulatory and legal implications of proposed action

Risk management, Annual Plan/IBP

Moving Ahead – how does this report support any of the Trust's 5 Strategic Goals