**BSW Acute Hospital Alliance to be part of first wave of new Provider Collaboratives Innovators Scheme.**

**A message from Stacey Hunter, Chief Executive of Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, Cara Charles-Barks, Chief Executive of Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and Kevin McNamara, Chief Executive of Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**

We are delighted to let you know that our BSW Acute Hospital Alliance has been selected as part of the first wave of NHS England’s new Provider Collaboratives Innovators Scheme.

This is a significant achievement and a big step forward for our three Trusts working more closely together – we are the only bid chosen from the South West, with nearly 50 bids submitted across the country.

As part of the new scheme, NHS England has chosen nine collaboratives – one from each region – to help accelerate their development, so being part of the first cohort is recognition of the work we’ve done so far, and our potential to do much more in the future.

The new scheme recognises the critical role that providers play in helping systems deliver better care.

Whilst provider collaboratives are now becoming more common in England, our Trusts began working together to provide excellent care back in 2018, with this work really speeding up from 2020 onwards.

We recognise there is much more we can do by working together to help and empower people, than by acting as individual organisations.

But while we know we are stronger together, we also know that many of the challenges we face as individual organisations can be unique.

We are ambitious, and our collaborative isn’t a partnership which is simply aspirational.

**What we are doing**

While improved patient care is the driver for our work, the financial challenges we collectively face means we have to approach how we work differently.

We are already delivering change and we’ve been able to add real value within our system for example by bringing back office functions such as procurement together to deliver economies of scale, and closer working within our clinical teams, including working together to reduce waiting times for paediatric ENT and oral surgery, a new approach to a single waiting list, and clinical care in BSW-wide virtual clinical teams.

We are also in the process of finalising our full business case to enable us to buy a new shared electronic patient record system for use across our Trusts.

Being selected as part of the first wave reflects the hard work all our staff have done to get us to this point, and now gives us the opportunity to further develop this work for the benefit of our patients and community.

**What happens next**

Today’s announcement will allow us to build upon, and speed up our achievements so far and will ultimately help us to improve the care our patients receive.

As part of the scheme, we will now work closely with NHS England to co-design the support and expertise we feel would provide most value to deliver our locally-agreed priorities for benefitting patients.

This will enable us to increase equity for our population, through clinically and financially sustainable services, and continuing to improve what we do for the future.

We have already held initial discussions with NHS England about how they can best support the development and impact of our partnership through this programme. We will continue to update you with how this work is being progressed over the coming weeks and months.

Being part of the first cohort will provide further opportunities for staff at our three organisations to collaborate more closely together.

It also means that our experience will help to improve future policy around collaboratives and collaboration.

**Further information**

A blog post on the scheme has been posted by NHS England [here](file:///C:\Users\tim.edmonds\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\ZM3J1E4C\National%20innovator%20provider%20scheme%20now%20on%20nhs%20blog%20-%20NHS%20England).