



Dear Colleague

The FTN becomes NHS Providers, the association of foundation trusts and trusts

We wanted to let you know that the FTN board has decided that, from 1 December 2014, the Foundation Trust Network name will change to NHS Providers, the association of foundation trusts and trusts.

The FTN name has a proud heritage, developed in the days when the FTN was a network inside the NHS Confederation, and when it consisted of the early foundation trusts and aspirant trusts who pioneered the foundation trust model and movement. However, it was becoming increasingly clear that the Foundation Trust Network, as a name, no longer accurately describes what we do, who we are, or who we represent.

We are an independent membership organisation and trade association - no longer a network within another organisation. We represent both NHS foundation trusts and trusts - 94% of acute, community, mental health and ambulance foundation trusts and trusts are members. And we are obviously a key part of the NHS – spending nearly 60% of its budget and employing nearly two thirds of its staff.

An extensive consultation with members and stakeholders revealed there were significant issues with both awareness and understanding of the FTN and that confusion was being caused by a name which did not reflect our membership, purpose or link to the NHS. Important stakeholders, for example, did not readily appreciate that, alongside the centrality of the foundation trust model in all that we do, we represent both foundation trusts and trusts. We also speak for the provider sector as a whole and our membership comprises all sectors and types of NHS provider – community, mental health, ambulance and acute. Our higher media profile has also highlighted the lack of resonance of the FTN name with the general public.

Our research clearly demonstrated the need and desire for a new name and branding that would encompass our strong commitment to the foundation trust model and movement, more accurately reflect what the FTN and its members do today, make our NHS connection much stronger, and clearly show who our members are.



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NHS Providers was the selected candidate name from a wide-ranging naming exercise and expresses our purpose - representing NHS providers - in a simple, direct, way. Our new strapline – the association of foundation trusts and trusts - reinforces our commitment to the foundation trust model and makes it clear that we represent both foundation trusts and trusts, and the provider sector as a whole.

With the introduction of a new name, the FTN logo was also no longer appropriate and has been changed. The new logo provides visual emphasis on the links to the NHS, while the overarching, canopy visualisation reflects the focus that NHS Providers has on supporting the interests of our members.

The change will happen on 1 December 2014, when email addresses will change to @nhsproviders.org and the website to www.nhsproviders.org.

Although our name is changing, our mission – “an outstanding membership organisation and trade association for all NHS providers, unrivalled in the influence, voice and support we offer our members” – and strategic objectives remain the same.

Please feel free to contact us or Nick Samuels, our director of communications, if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Dame Gill Morgan, Chair



Chris Hopson, Chief Executive