

# Nurse Led Therapy Unit

Consultation on becoming  
a Social Enterprise



# Nurse Led Therapy Unit

**The Nurse Led Therapy Unit (NLTU) delivers intermediate care services to the population of Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. The Unit has an excellent reputation for delivering high quality services to its patients and is a flagship development of the Foundation Trust. We are committed to maintaining and improving the service and wish to give our staff, patients and the public greater involvement in how the services should be provided in the future. To help us to do this we are applying to become a social enterprise, community interest company, limited by guarantee.**

We have carefully considered the benefits this would bring for our patients, carers, staff, the local community and beyond. We believe that by becoming a social enterprise we can improve the way we involve people in developing and delivering high quality, cost effective, and timely services nearer to home.

Being a social enterprise will:

- Make every employee a member and co-owner of the company.
- Strengthen local partnerships with health care providers, social services and voluntary organisations.
- Help us to improve upon patient care and the range of services by listening to your views.

- Give us freedom allowing us to use our income in ways which will increase the benefits to our patients and staff and add social value to our local community.

This consultation document has been developed to help you understand what becoming a social enterprise would mean for the Nurse Led Therapy Unit.

## About the Nurse Led Therapy Unit

The Nurse Led Therapy Unit opened in August 2003 and is based at Bispham Hospital. The Unit has 40 beds and provides intermediate care services to patients aged 18 years and over. Patients must be medically stable and discharged from consultant care and have a nursing or therapy rehabilitation need of up to six weeks duration.

Patients are admitted following a referral and assessment process. They either come as step-down patients following an acute hospital inpatient episode, or step-up directly from home on referral from a GP or community matron, thereby avoiding an unnecessary admission to hospital.

## What is a social enterprise?

Social enterprises are entrepreneurial businesses with primarily social objectives, whose surpluses are principally reinvested for their identified social purpose; in this they are comparable to foundation trusts.

A social enterprise is an enterprise that is owned by those who work in it and/or reside in a given locality, is governed by registered social as well as commercial aims and objectives, and run with the emphasis on personal, environmental and social benefit.

Social enterprises have a strong track record of working in partnership with a wide range of organisations, from NHS trusts, local authorities and other public sector bodies to housing associations and the voluntary and community sector. Working in partnership with social enterprise in the delivery of healthcare is fundamentally about ways of foundation trusts engaging with and delivering a better service for the public, and in particular improving the patient/user experience.

## What are the benefits?

- All staff are members and co-owners of the company, empowering staff to be accountable and to take responsibility for the care they deliver and the resources that they manage.
- Services are clinically led.
- Patients and the public are active participants in the design and evaluation of services.
- Strong social value – contributing to the regeneration of the local community.
- Prevent unnecessary admissions to acute hospital care.
- Reduce acute inpatient length of stay.
- Improve quality by increasing patient satisfaction and choice.
- Demonstrate social return on investment.
- Work in partnership with the voluntary sector to promote independence and keep patients in their own homes for as long as possible.

## Our vision

The vision for the Nurse Led Therapy Unit social enterprise is:

- To offer the 'best' intermediate care rehabilitation services to our patients at a competitive price to our purchasers, ensuring patient satisfaction and choice and value for money.
- To contribute to our local community through our strong social value focus.
- To encourage and support staff membership and ownership of the company.
- To encourage patient and public engagement in the strategic direction of the company.

## How the NLTU will be run

The NLTU Governance Structure for the Nurse Led Therapy Unit will have two levels of governance – members and a Board of Directors.

**Members** – comprising staff, patients and public.

**Board of Directors** – 2 Executive Directors and 4 Non-Executive Directors.



## How you can have your say

Your views matter. We want to know what you think of our proposals for the Nurse led Therapy Unit to become a social enterprise.

You can make your comments known to us in a number of different ways:

- By completing the form on page 4.
- By completing an online form at [www.bfwhospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.bfwhospitals.nhs.uk).
- You can write to us at the address at the bottom of this form.
- You can email your views and comments to [socialenterprise@bfwh.nhs.uk](mailto:socialenterprise@bfwh.nhs.uk).
- You can phone us on 01253 655925.

All comments must be received by August 31st 2010. A summary of comments received and our response to them will be published on our website [www.bfwhospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.bfwhospitals.nhs.uk).

# Questions and Your Comments



**Q1 What are your views on our proposals for the Nurse Led Therapy Unit to become a social enterprise?**

Comments:

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**Q2 What benefits do you believe becoming a social enterprise will bring to staff, patients and the local community?**

Comments:

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**Q3 What are your views on our proposed vision for the Nurse Led Therapy Unit social enterprise?**

Comments:

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**Q4 Do you have any comments on the proposed governance structure for the social enterprise?**

Comments:

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**Q5 Do you have any further comments on our proposals?**

Comments:

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Please register your comments by no later than August 31st 2010. Completed forms should be returned to:

Consultation on Nurse Led Unit Social Enterprise  
FREEPOST RRZB-RRAW-TGET  
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Communications Department  
Blackpool Victoria Hospital  
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