



a clinically-led process to determine the future shape of
pathology services in the region

designed by



For

NHS East Midlands

Introduction

Even before the publication of the original Carter report conversations amongst pathologists and managers about the benefits of integrating 'stand alone' pathology services were not uncommon. The second Carter report created a fairly explicit blueprint about necessary improvements to the quality of pathology services - much of it predicated on the creation of consolidated provider networks.

However implementation of the Carter recommendations has not been universally rapid. In some places the level of disquiet amongst clinicians and pathologists induced by the change and a fear that the disruption would cause a drop in service quality has pushed pathology consolidation onto the back burner – til now.

The economic downturn has meant that securing the £500 million savings *and* the gains in service quality envisaged by Carter has become top priority and that one way or another provider consolidation for pathology will be pursued in order to provide value for money in delivering a high quality clinical service.

There are two ways in which it might be done. The first – and fatally flawed approach – is 'top down' where solutions would be remotely generated and then imposed on the system. The outcome would almost inevitably not be sensitive to local requirements and might well involve a central role for commercial organizations. The second is more 'bottom up' – where pathologists and their departmental managers from all the organizations involved would be supported to develop their own workable solution to the provider consolidation issue.

In NHS East Midlands it is this latter more reliable route that has been taken. The Pathfinder process has been designed by *Loop2* to enable a large number of clinicians, pathologists and managers to come together and design the integrated service of the future for the NHS in the East Midlands.

It is a two stage process. The first is a day-long event on the 8th December where representatives from the eight stand-alone systems can come together to explore the strategic background to the 'QIPP in pathology' issue. You will find a programme for this event attached. The second - to be run early in the New Year - will involve senior pathologists and managers from the each of the services coming together for a day of structured negotiation so that - through collaboration - the optimum shape of future services can be determined.

In this way we hope that the way in which the pathology systems across the East Midlands meet the challenges they face will be determined by those intimately involved in delivering and managing the pathology services. There will be no better solution.



Professor Noor Kalsheker

SHA Clinical Lead for Pathology Modernisation

Wednesday 8th December - Pride Park Stadium, Derby

9.00 Registration and Coffee

9.30 Welcome

Professor Noor Kalsheker, QIPP Clinical Lead for Pathology Modernisation

9.40 Explanation of the Process

Professor Laurie McMahon, Cass Business School City University (facilitator)

10.00 The Pathology Service Briefings

In this session we will hear about the wider context in which changes to the shape of pathology services Midlands are being considered. Of particular relevance here will be the expectations by the centre of significant productivity gains from the region's pathology system. After each 20 minute presentation there will be an opportunity for questions but the wider implications for the pathology services in East Midlands can be fully explored in the plenary session after coffee.

A National Perspective - *Dr Ian Barnes, National Clinical Director for Pathology*

A Trust Perspective - *Malcolm Lowe- Lauri, Chief Executive University Hospitals of Leicester*

A Commissioner Perspective – *Dr Stephen Clay, Primary Care Adviser NHS East Midlands*

11.15 Coffee

11.45 Implications for Pathology Services - Facilitated Plenary Discussion

In this session participants working in smaller groups will first establish how what they have heard will impact on their part of the system and then share their views with others in a facilitated plenary session with commentary from the speakers' panel. Dr Kathy McLean, Medical Director, NHS East Midlands will join the panel.

12.45 Lunch

13.30 Working Groups

In this session small groups - mixed by geography and specialty - will discuss the three questions set out below. The key points from these discussions will be recorded and discussed in the full plenary session that follows.

- What improvements in the quality of our service should we seek and how can we ensure they are achieved?
- What are the key risks involved if provider consolidation goes ahead and how might they be mitigated?
- On what evidence should any consolidation of pathology services be based?

14.30 Tea**15.00 The Exemplars**

In this last session we will hear from two parts of the country where the integration of a number of 'stand alone' pathology services has already happened. To ensure that we learn as much as we can from their experience we will ask our presenters to talk about what they did wrong as well as what they got right!

The North East - *Tony Gibson, North East Pathology Network Coordinator*

The South East - *Peter Huntley, Director, Kent & Medway Pathology Network*

15.45 Introduction to the Phase 2 Event

Professor Noor Kalsheker and Laurie McMahon

16.00 Closing Remarks

Professor Noor Kalsheker

(please note, copies of any presentations will be made available electronically after the event)