

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2017**

## **A new partnership to deliver world-class care for heart and lung patients**

Plans to revolutionise cardiovascular and respiratory services for patients are intended through a partnership between Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust and King's Health Partners.

The partners have a united vision to create a global powerhouse for heart and lung medicine and research in London, providing the best possible patient care and experience. These intentions bring together the specialist skills and expertise from all of the organisations involved to create a centre of excellence for current patients and future generations.

Together Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust and King's Health Partners (the Academic Health Sciences Centre comprising Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts and King's College London) would deliver world-class clinical facilities. This envisages the development of a new purpose-built clinical academic facility on the St Thomas' Hospital and Evelina London Children's Hospital site.

The partnership would also provide substantial investment to other sites within the organisations at King's College Hospital and Harefield Hospital, to support the provision of high-quality care in a new network for patients across the south of England.

This exciting opportunity would:

- Deliver world-class clinical services from before birth through to old age for common and rare conditions on a local, regional, national and international level, offering new treatments;
- Enable the organisations involved to deliver best practice care in modern facilities, making the best use of NHS estates;
- Provide a large-scale service for adults and children with heart and lung conditions, offering outstanding outcomes and sustainable care within a collaborative network;
- Allow the organisations to cement their place at the forefront of UK health research and build strong industry and commercial partnerships; and
- Train the next generation of clinicians and researchers, through extensive education including national and international training.

The partnership intends to align internationally renowned organisations that lead in the treatment and research of cardiovascular and respiratory conditions for adults and children. Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust and King's Health Partners have a rich history of collaboration. For example, both institutions provide national services for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy and they recently submitted a joint response to the national consultation on congenital heart disease services.

The scale and range of services offered by the collaboration would benefit patients on a regional, national and international level, directly reaching a diverse population of more than 12 million people.

By combining their assets in the new partnership, the organisations would be able to seek new opportunities to improve public health outcomes and economic growth, in alignment with the Government's Life Sciences Industrial Strategy.

Services will remain focused on patients and their families and on partnerships with local and regional providers.

Bob Bell, Chief Executive of Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, says: “We believe there is the potential to transform heart and lung disease treatment and research in the UK. Our ambition is to reap the benefits of collaboration by working together across all cardiac and respiratory specialist services for adults and children, in a powerful collaboration between Royal Brompton, Guy’s and St Thomas’ and King’s College Hospitals, and King’s College London.

“This would be a UK first in terms of the scale of the partnership and the clinical, education and research benefits it could provide, rivalling the world’s largest centres, and becoming the most advanced cardiovascular and respiratory health system in Europe. For instance, our congenital heart services and cystic fibrosis services would continue to offer care from before birth to old age, reflecting what we believe to be the best model for the delivery of a lifetime of specialist care, and crucially, our clinical and research teams built up over decades, would stay together.”

Professor Sir Robert Lechler, Executive Director of King’s Health Partners, says: “Cardiovascular and respiratory conditions affect patients of all ages, and much of the premature morbidity and mortality caused by these conditions is preventable or amenable to treatment. We have identified the potential to create a world-leading centre of excellence and network in cardiovascular and respiratory treatment and research. Our ambition is to create a service that can provide the best possible care to as many patients as possible, both now and in the future.”

Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive of Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, says: “We are excited to explore the potential benefits that this partnership could bring to patients of all ages. We believe that combining exceptional specialist services would not only build on our existing high-quality services to offer the best possible care for patients, but it would also give us an unrivalled opportunity to carry out leading research on a larger scale, helping future generations of patients with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. We look forward to working closely with Royal Brompton & Harefield and King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts in the coming months.”

Nick Moberly, Chief Executive of King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, says: “We know that working in partnership and sharing our expertise across organisational boundaries allows us to deliver even better patient care and outcomes. We believe that there is a real opportunity for us to rethink and transform how we deliver services to people with heart and lung disease right across southeast England.”

Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust and King’s Health Partners have started to explore what a formal partnership model will mean in practice for services, including benefits and opportunities across clinical services, research and education. Regular progress updates will be provided on a quarterly basis. The partnership model could conceivably extend to other potential partners.

Any proposals will be clinically led, developed in partnership with patients and stakeholders and will be subject to the approval of relevant boards and regulators, commissioner support and public consultation.

**ENDS****NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. **Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust** is the UK's largest specialist centre for the treatment of heart and lung disease for children and adults. Working from two sites, Royal Brompton Hospital in Chelsea, West London, and Harefield Hospital, near Uxbridge, the Trust has an international reputation for the expertise of its staff, high standard of care and research success. Experts at the Trust help patients from all age groups who have heart and lung problems and provide some of the most complex surgery and sophisticated treatments available anywhere in the world.

The Trust is the UK's largest centre for the treatment of adult congenital heart disease and is the country's leading provider of specialist respiratory care. Over the years the Trust has been responsible for major medical breakthroughs, such as the UK's first combined heart and lung transplant. It established the UK's first adult service for cystic fibrosis, which is now one of Europe's biggest treatment centres for the condition, and has pioneered the use of primary angioplasty for the treatment of heart attacks. Today the Heart Attack Centre at Harefield has one of the fastest arrival-to-treatment times in the UK, a crucial factor in patients' survival. [www.rbht.nhs.uk](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk)

2. **King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC)** is a pioneering collaboration between King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts. We work collectively to make sure that the lessons from research are used more swiftly, effectively and systematically to provide better and more joined up physical and mental healthcare for people. We also provide a unique combination of research, teaching and clinical expertise in addressing the relationship between the mind and body. [www.kingshealthpartners.org](http://www.kingshealthpartners.org)

Our partnership brings together:

- three of the UK's leading NHS Foundation Trusts
- a world-leading university for health research and education
- nearly 4.8 million patient contacts each year
- 40,000 staff
- nearly 30,000 students
- a combined annual turnover of more than £3.7 billion

3. **Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust** provides more than 2.4 million patient contacts in acute and specialist hospital services and community services every year. As one of the biggest NHS trusts in the UK, with an annual turnover of almost £1.5 billion, we employ around 15,300 staff. [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk)
4. **King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust** is one of the UK's largest and busiest teaching hospitals. The Trust is recognised internationally for its work in liver disease and transplantation, neurosciences, cardiac, haemato-oncology, fetal medicine, stroke and major trauma. In 2013, we acquired the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH), Orpington Hospital, and some services at Beckenham Beacon and Queen Mary's Sidcup following the dissolution of South London Healthcare NHS Trust. We now provide care to 1.5 million patients in Southwark, Lambeth, Bromley, Bexley, Lewisham and elsewhere in south east London and parts of Kent.

Over 10,000 babies are delivered by our hospitals each year, and over 750 patients come to our Emergency Departments every day. [www.kch.nhs.uk](http://www.kch.nhs.uk)

5. The programme of work will produce a high-level Strategic Outline Case for approval by each of the partner organisation boards (following the HM Treasury structure).
  
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