

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Search is on for new Chair and Non-Executive Directors at Hinchingsbrooke hospital

Candidates with entrepreneurial vision and a close eye for scrutiny are being sought to oversee changes at Hinchingsbrooke hospital as final arrangements are put in place for Circle to take on the Trust's new operating franchise.

Hinchingsbrooke is the first NHS hospital to be managed via an operating franchise, with Circle announced as the recommended bidder on 25 November following a groundbreaking procurement process.

Advertisements are being placed today for a new Trust Chair and two new non-executive directors. The successful applicants will take on unique performance management roles ensuring that Circle delivers the hospital's services to the levels specified in the franchise contract. They also need to ensure that patients' interests are squarely at the heart of decision making.

Sarah Boulton, Chair of NHS East of England, the strategic health authority for the region, said:

"These posts are a huge opportunity to shape the future. We are looking for experienced applicants who can protect the public interest and voice the aspirations of Hinchingsbrooke's staff. It is a chance to lead this hospital through a groundbreaking period, driving up the quality of services. They will have the responsibility of governing what remains a public asset, and remain accountable to patients and the public. And as Hinchingsbrooke will be setting the standard that other hospitals in the country will follow, this is a fantastic opportunity to show national leadership. These are big jobs for big people. We want the best."

The Chair will be accountable to the Secretary of State, and the successful applicant will need to demonstrate that they have high level business acumen with a track record of achievement in a challenging, market driven business environment, while building alliances and working relationships with a range of stakeholders. They also need to show that they can scrutinise, through contract, an organisation with a significant budget and of comparable complexity.

Candidates interested in the two non-executive director posts must be able to demonstrate exceptional financial or clinical skills.

The advertisements appear on the Appointments Commission website at www.appointments.org.uk/Jobs.aspx.

The deadline for applications is:

- Chair applications close on 21 March 2011, interviews will be held on 28 March 2011
- NEDS applications close on 24 March 2011, interviews will be held on 9 May 2011

ENDS

For more information please contact the NHS East of England Press Office

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Notes for editors

- Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust, NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS East of England have been working together to find a new partner to operate Huntingdonshire's Hinchingsbrooke hospital. The clinical and non-clinical services at Hinchingsbrooke hospital - other than where identified below - will be provided, from June 2011, by Circle, via an operating franchise agreement. This contract ensures that a full range of high quality acute hospital services - including accident

and emergency and maternity services - will continue to be provided for local people at Hinchingbrooke, as agreed at the end of the 2007 public consultation, for as long as commissioners request it.

- Under the contract, staff and assets will remain within the NHS, and patients will continue to receive NHS services.
- Circle is an employee owned social enterprise that forms the largest partnership of clinicians in Europe - over 2000. Circle is co-owned and managed by the doctors, nurses and all staff who work in Circle's hospitals, treatment centres and clinics. Circle has significant experience of transforming NHS services from their Nottingham and Burton day surgery hospitals, where they treat around 130,000 NHS patients per annum.
- Hinchingbrooke hospital, which opened in 1983, is modern and purpose-built, with 369 beds providing quality up-to-date healthcare - including accident and emergency and maternity services - for approximately 161,000 people in Huntingdon and the surrounding areas.
- The Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project is being managed by NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team led by Andrew MacPherson, Director of Strategic Projects. This team of experts works in partnership to develop and deliver positive change for NHS services in the east of England. Working closely with the healthcare marketplace and the stakeholders, it develops, supports and delivers transactions that drive up the quality of patient experience, safety and care, clinical excellence, public service and value for money. The team received support from Pricewaterhousecooper and Wragge & Co.
- Services on the Hinchingbrooke hospital site provided by other organisations, such as Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, through contractual arrangements with NHS Cambridgeshire, are unaffected by this franchise.
- Further information about the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project can be found at www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects or by calling 0800 923 3001.