

JJ/cbr

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PCT Chief Executives

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Dear Colleague

**Future provision of FHS registration payment and screening services**

Following the discussion at the last SHA/PCT Chairs and Chief Executives meeting there have been further conversations about how this work should be taken forward in the light of clustering arrangements.


Concerns were expressed about aspects of the process that had produced the service specification and proposal from NHS SBS. We agreed that it would be helpful to revise the project management arrangements to ensure effective engagement of all the current FHS providers and to ensure that the service specification was appropriate for current commissioners needs and, as far as we can tell, the future needs and preferences of the NHS Commissioning Board.

I have offered to chair a reconvened Project Board involving input from each PCT that currently provides FHS services. The Project Board has two fundamental tasks, to test the adequacy of the service specification and to test the viability of the NHS SBS proposal. Representation needs to have this in mind and I suggest it is either the most senior manager responsible for FHS or the Director to whom that person reports from each FHS providing PCT plus the SHA Director of Finance or his nominee. The previous Project Board Chair will continue to be a member of the Board. Colleagues from NHS SBS will be invited to contribute fully to the work of the Board but will not take part in any decision making.

In taking this project forward, I understand that there is also work being done under the leadership of NHS Gloucestershire to develop an alternative proposal. I suggest that the Project Board receives the alternative proposal and tests this against the NHS SBS model.

I hope this seems like an acceptable way forward. Please let me know if you have any concerns about the revised Project Board membership or its agenda. My office will be in touch early next week to convene a meeting of the revised Project Board at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



**Jeff James**  
**Chief Executive**

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