

Guiding Principles of the IM&T Strategy

To ensure that the IM&T strategy satisfies the long-term business strategy of the Trust, whilst remaining realistic and achievable in the short-term, the Trust must adopt a number of principles.

In particular: -

- The IM&T strategy must be aligned and fundamentally linked to the **Annual Plan** and the **developing Integrated Business Strategy** for the Trust.
- The IM&T strategy must be linked to a **programme of service redesign and benefits realisation**
- The IM&T strategy must both support long-term business goals and address short-term problems/needs through **a combination of strategic initiatives and projects that result in ‘early wins’**.
- The IM&T strategy must support services which are delivered across a **multi-site service configuration**, taking into account the rationalisation and service reconfiguration of the **Delivering a Healthy Future (DaHF)** approach
- Although this Strategy relates to the Trust, the vision is that this will be consistent with developing **Quality Healthcare in Hertfordshire** and support the implementation of the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) standards of **Improving Lives; Saving Lives**.
- The IM&T solutions will need to be based upon **consistent standards, system technology and solutions** across all sites. **Training and support** for NHS staff in the utilisation of IM&T will be a high priority.
- The IM&T strategy should be consistent with and supportive of the *Darzi*¹ review **NHS Next Stage Review** and the National IM&T Strategies. At the same time it must be flexible enough to accommodate specific requirements of the **Delivering Quality Healthcare in Hertfordshire** strategy which sets the vision for future delivery of secondary care services across the local healthcare community.
- It must meet the obligation for all Trusts to participate in the **Connecting for Health (CfH) programme** as set out in guidance issued by **Monitor** (12 April 2006).

¹ NHS Next Stage Review by Lord Darzi June 2008