

Roy While  
Chair, Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
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Tuesday 12 August 2008

Dear Councillor While

**Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust consultation on Foundation Trust status**

The Trust has decided to take more time before beginning its consultation to move towards FT status, and is anticipating that this will happen in January 2009. This decision has been made after due consideration with PCTs and the Strategic Health Authority, and was taken to ensure that the improvements at Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust to date are able to be consolidated and articulated in a positive way.

We believe it is acknowledged that the Trust already delivers nationally recognised secure and prison services, has an improving position in relation to specialist drug and alcohol services, and is concentrating effort and energy into improving adult inpatient services. The focus for older peoples' services and children's acute mental health is in redesigning services.

This change in pace in moving towards Foundation Trust status has been taken to give Avon and Wiltshire Partnership NHS Trust the best possible chance of success as a Foundation Trust at the point it embarks on the consultation period.

I have indicated that I would be happy to meet with colleagues should you have any issues you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely



**Laura McMurtrie**  
**Chief Executive**

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