

Embargoed until 11 am Thursday 18 August 2011

Leading NHS Trusts in the South West name iPP as preferred bidder for pathology services

Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have announced that Integrated Pathology Partnerships, (iPP), is their preferred bidder to help them deliver improved pathology services across the county.

The collaboration between the Trusts and iPP, which is in the final stages of completion, will result in a joint venture under which the Trusts and iPP will deliver the full range of laboratory services together whilst the clinical interpretation and clinical advice functions will continue to be provided by the Trusts' medical staff who will remain employed by the NHS. The partnership is expected to last 20 years.

Plans for a multi-million pound state of the art laboratory in Taunton to house the new pathology service are already underway. It will be located on a brand new site near the M5 and designed to allow high quality and efficient processing of routine and non-urgent testing. There will be an essential services laboratory at both Musgrove Park and Yeovil District Hospitals to ensure that all urgent and essential tests remain available on-site. The current patient referral process for tests will remain unchanged.

Whilst the partnership will initially focus on providing services to both Trusts, which provide healthcare for a population of 500,000 along with over 100 GP practices in the area, the joint venture has been deliberately structured in a way that allows other Trusts in the region to join the collaboration and benefit from investment in the new service and the wide range of innovations and service improvements it will deliver.

Speaking about the project, Jo Cubbon, Chief Executive of Taunton and Somerset NHSFT, and Gavin Boyle, Chief Executive of Yeovil District Hospital NHSFT, said: “This is a good deal for the NHS. It enables both Yeovil and Musgrove Park Hospitals to benefit from greater investment in pathology which will help our patients for years to come. We are delighted to have iPP as our preferred bidder.”

Geoff Searle, Managing Director, iPP, a joint venture between Sodexo and Labco, said: “iPP is dedicated to enabling UK healthcare organisations to strengthen the quality, delivery and efficiency of pathology services. We are very excited about this opportunity to enhance and develop pathology services in the region through our partnership with the Trusts. Our collective vision is to build on what is already an excellent service and enhance this further by the contribution of iPP’s investment, expertise and experience.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

The hospital serves a population of 340,000 – primarily living in the area served by NHS South West. Each year almost 40,000 patients are admitted as emergencies; 10,000 patients are admitted for elective surgery; 26,000 are seen for day case surgery; 232,000 patients attend outpatient clinics; 48,000 attend Accident and Emergency; 170,000 diagnostic examinations take place and over 3000 babies are born in the Maternity Department. Almost 1000 patients are admitted to Critical Care each year. Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust has an annual budget of £190 million. The hospital has over 700 beds, 30 wards, 15 operating theatres, a fully equipped diagnostic imaging department and a purpose built cancer treatment centre which includes outpatient, chemotherapy day care, radiotherapy and inpatient facilities. The Trust employs over 4000 staff.

Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Yeovil District Hospital provides a full range of services and is consistently rated as being in the top ten of healthcare employers in the country. With an annual income of £106.5 million it provides acute care for a population of about 185,000 mostly in south Somerset, North and West Dorset and parts of Mendip. The hospital has 345 beds and a private patients’ wing. In 2010/11, there were 17,857 emergency admissions, 3,379 elective admissions, 17,509 day case admissions, 142,916 outpatients seen, 42,672 Emergency Department attendances, 1590 births, 703 admissions to intensive care and 45,218 diagnostic tests. The Trust employs about 2,200 staff.

iPP

Integrated Pathology Partnerships (iPP) is dedicated to enabling UK healthcare organisations to strengthen the quality, delivery and cost-effectiveness of pathology services. The joint founders of the company are Labco, a major European clinical diagnostics company, and Sodexo, a leading global provider of outsourced solutions for healthcare.

iPP drives service improvements through:

- objective and measurable quality standards;
- constructive engagement with front-line clinicians;
- Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA) recommended in the Carter review;
- improved IT connectivity and investment in leading technologies;
- greater operational and financial transparency;
- reconfiguration and consolidation of pathology facilities as integrated networks;
- innovation to continually improve quality of service while reducing costs; and
- leveraging international best practice.

www.ipp-uk.com

Sodexo

Sodexo is one of the world's leading providers of on-site service solutions. The company has a major presence in the UK healthcare market with over 9,000 employees directly involved in the sector, of which 6,000 are working in NHS organisations across the UK having transferred from the NHS to Sodexo. The services offered by Sodexo include a wide range of traditional hard and soft facilities management services such as catering, cleaning, portering and reception as well as decontamination, sterile services and clinical technology services.

Operating as a partner to the NHS as well as private healthcare providers for over twenty years, Sodexo currently delivers a wide range of services in almost 100 hospitals in the UK. It is also involved in a number of large and complex PFI schemes, both as a service provider and an equity partner.

Sodexo in the UK and Ireland employs around 43,000 people and delivers on-site service solutions to clients at over 2,300 locations in the corporate, healthcare, education, leisure and defence sectors.

www.sodexo.com

Labco

Labco is a leading medical diagnostics group that operates over 300 laboratories in six European countries, performing analyses for more than 10,000,000 patients a year from a range of over 2,500 clinical tests. Labco has unrivalled experience, in multiple settings, of delivering diagnostics services, including pathology, and performs over 250,000 tests each day. Such settings include community and academic hospitals (both public and private), inpatient, outpatient, general practitioners, health clinics etc. In addition, Labco has an excellent track record of successfully transferring its technical and medical knowledge to new healthcare markets.

In its outsourcing collaborations, Labco engages in very long-term relationships with its customers, and most of its contracts run for between seven and fifteen years. Many of these contracts have already been renewed by satisfied customers and to date Labco has yet to lose a customer. This 100% retention rate is testament to Labco's commitment to offering world-class services and focus on patient, clinician and customer satisfaction.

Labco's approach to business is based on scientific input in diagnostics. Labco's European expansion relies on the operational independence of the pathologist, underpinned by efficient management. Labco's commitment to meeting the highest national and international accreditation and certification standards is evidenced by its ongoing and substantial investment in company-wide quality programmes and innovation. Labco employs around 4,500 staff including 500 pathologists.

3i is a leading international investor and backer of Labco.

www.labco.eu

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