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Our Ref: SE/KS/LAE

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Dear Colleague

'Seizing the Future': Developing the Strategic Direction of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust: Launch Event: 26th February 2008:

I am writing to invite you to an important event to be held from 10:00 to 4:00pm on Tuesday 26 February 2008 (venue to be confirmed).

As described in the enclosed briefing note, the Trust has recently launched "Seizing the Future"; a programme of change aimed at developing the Trust's strategic direction for the next five years. Seizing the Future is designed to build on the tremendous progress made by the Trust in recent years such that it continues to succeed within an ever changing NHS environment.

Seizing the Future will deliver:

- A 5 year strategic plan setting out the major developments across the Trust to 2013
- A compelling clinical vision derived from a programme of change aimed at ensuring a robust range of clinical services that are able to deliver high quality clinical outcomes and standards.
- Decisions on the way forward for our Hospitals.

Over the next few months I want to create as many opportunities as possible to listen to the views of all of our staff, particularly clinical staff, and other major stakeholders. The February event is one of several that we are organising, aimed at bringing together stakeholders to participate in the review. The full programme of events will be finalised in early January, once the scoping study being undertaken by Matrix is complete.

The focus of the February event will be to:

- Share the details of the work programme and progress to date; and
- Together gain a shared understanding of current challenges, and the changes facing the NHS, the local health and social care community, and the Trust itself. I want

Further details of the event will be available in mid-January when a full agenda will be circulated.

The timescales for the review are tight. We are aiming to have options for consultation available for summer 2008. I also realise that diary commitments are already established well into the New Year, hence the need to schedule this first event in advance of finalising the full work programme.

I regard your involvement in this and subsequent events as critical to a successful outcome and I would therefore urge you would to make every effort to attend. I would be would be grateful if you would confirm your attendance **to Kaye Shore on direct line 01325 743757 or by e-mail to kaye.shore@cddft.nhs.uk by Friday 18th January 2008.**

Many thanks in anticipation.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Eames
Chief Executive

