



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**31 March 2016**

### **Two new trusts achieve foundation trust status**

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Sussex Community NHS Trust have been authorised as foundation trusts (FT) by Monitor, effective from 1 April 2016.

Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers, said:

“This is great news for both trusts and it’s good to see more community trusts being given Foundation Trust status. Despite the financial and operational challenges facing NHS providers, foundation status remains highly relevant and something for trusts to aspire towards.

“Today’s news underlines the importance of the foundation model and the pillars that lie at its heart: greater autonomy for those who have responsibility for delivering healthcare; making them directly accountable to their local communities; and creating stronger governance and assurance. This status is therefore more than a sign on the front door – it is about removing trusts from direct ministerial control and strengthening their accountability to local people.

“These trusts, like all those who apply for foundation status, have worked incredibly hard to satisfy the tough authorisation criteria and we welcome the announcements as recognition of this and an endorsement of the quality of the care they provide to the public.”

Ends

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About NHS Providers**

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has 94% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
- Follow NHS Providers on twitter @NHSPROVIDERS and Chris Hopson, chief executive, @ChrisCEOHopson
- A full list of NHS Providers’ press releases can be viewed in the news section of our homepage [www.nhsproviders.org](http://www.nhsproviders.org)
- Contact Geethani Piyasena, media relations, 07711 376 267