

Dear colleague,

Re: - Developing a strategy for integrated identity management

Following recent presentations at both People Matters Executive Group and SHA CIOs meetings on the opportunities and benefits from integrating identity management, this letter confirms the next steps to take forward this piece of work.

The 'Developing a strategy for Integrated Identity Management' toolkit accompanying this letter provides a structure to the key decisions that will need to be made by NHS organisations in your SHA area to realise the benefits of Integrated Identity Management.

In your capacity as SHA CIO / WD, we ask you to endorse and disseminate the accompanying toolkit to Directors responsible for HR, IT and Information Governance in NHS organisations within your SHA area.

Central to this work is the assurance of an employee's identity. At present this is undertaken, in the majority of NHS organisations, as two parallel activities. NHS organisations now have to comply with the new NHS Employment Check Standards and (using the same identity management standards) verify an individual's identity before allowing access to patient records within NHS CRS applications. These activities are usually performed by both Human Resources (or delegated to line managers) and the NHS organisations Registration Authority.

Combining these into a single **Integrated Identity Management** process has proven to result in:

- Savings in productive time and money
- Assurance that access rights are removed on the day of termination or suspension
- Assurance that employment checks are performed to national standards
- Improved security of patient and staff data
- Improved information governance

This approach has been piloted by over 100 NHS organisations and the subsequent learning has been incorporated into the 'Developing a strategy for Integrated Identity Management'.

These benefits can be achieved now by integrating current paper based business processes. NHS organisations that streamline their business processes will be further supported, for employed staff, by a new electronic interface between ESR and the NHS CRS; and for independent contractors (e.g. GPs and Community Pharmacists) by User Identity Manager (UIM) the new paperless system to register access to the NHS CRS.

Finally, we at NHS Connecting for Health and the Electronic Staff Record are jointly providing support to all NHS organisations that are keen to take this work forward. This will include workshops, toolkits, and facilitation support for each SHA during 2009 and early 2010.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Brown
Head of NHS CFH Access Control



Simon Willcock
ESR Programme Director

Key Milestones

Timescales you should be aware of:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| ESR Smartcard enabled | January 2009 |
| NHS Organisation Strategic Decision Making | February – September 2009 |
| ESR Smartcard rollout | May – August 2009 |
| UIM available | September 2009 |
| ESR / UIM Interface delivered | September 2009 |
| UIM Rollout | November 2009 -> |
| ESR Interface Rollout | November 2009 -> |

For further information please refer to the following websites:

<http://nww.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/implementation/registrationauthorities>

<http://www.esrsolution.co.uk/>