

Trust Board meeting: Wednesday 13 March, 2013
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Title	Chief Executive's Report
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Status	The report summarises current points of interest locally and nationally.
History	Regular report to Board

Board Lead(s)	Sir Jonathan Michael, Chief Executive			
Key purpose	Strategy	Assurance	Policy	Performance

Summary

1	NHS Constitution
2	Agenda for Change amendments
3	Strategic Partnerships
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Chief Executive's Report

This report summarises matters of current interest.

1. NHS Constitution

The government has recently published a report providing an overview of responses to the consultation on strengthening the NHS Constitution. This report can be accessed on the following website - <http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/ifi/DNWA-94XLWP>

2. Agenda for Change amendments

The NHS Staff Council has agreed changes to the NHS Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook which covers staff on Agenda for Change contracts in England. The key changes include:-

- Progression through all incremental pay points in all pay bands to be conditional on individuals demonstrating that they meet locally agreed performance requirements;
- For staff in bands 8C, 8D and 9, pay progression into the last two points in a band will become annually earned, and only retained where the appropriate local level of performance is reached in a given year;
- Pay during sickness absence will generally be paid at basic salary level - not including any allowance or payments linked to working patterns or additional work commitments.

The agreement is the result of a lengthy dialogue between NHS Employers, employers' representatives and trade unions. Whilst not all trade unions were able to agree, those representing the vast majority of staff working across the NHS were able to do so. This means that the new arrangements will come into effect from 31 March 2013. Work is underway to realise the full benefits of the changes within the Trust.

3. Strategic Partnerships

I am pleased to announce that Nigel Keen has agreed to become Chairman of the Board of the Oxford Academic Health Science Network. Nigel has a long and distinguished career as an engineer and in investment banking and corporate finance. Nigel joined a delegation from the network to meet the national panel, chaired by Sir Alan Langlands on 18th February to discuss our application. I am expecting national communication shortly on the successful applicants as I understand the Commissioning Board are keen to establish AHSNs by the next financial year. More detailed information is available in the paper on this month's Board agenda.

4. NHS Commissioning Board

I have been invited, by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, to be a member of the National Advisory Group which will guide a review into 14 hospitals that have had higher than expected mortality rates. The group will guide the overall review process and advise on how to ensure a robust and consistent approach is taken to conducting the individual investigations.

5. Consultation on indemnity insurance

The Department of Health has begun a consultation on legislation that would mean all regulated healthcare professionals have to hold indemnity or insurance to practise as a condition of their registration with the relevant regulatory body. The consultation will run from 22 February to 17 May 2013.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/02/indemnity-i/>

6. Tariffs for education and training

The Department of Health has announced a move to a tariff based system for education and training to enable a national approach to the funding of all clinical placements (both medical and non-medical) and postgraduate medical programmes. The DH has been working with stakeholders since 2008 to develop the tariffs and having assessed the impact, the following will be implemented:

- tariffs for non-medical placements and undergraduate medical placements in secondary care from 1 April 2013
- tariffs for postgraduate medical training in secondary care from 1 April 2014

Based on current proposals, it is expected that this Trust will lose £4.8m on undergraduate education tariffs and gain £1.1m on non-medical placement value over the period of the transition. SHAs and local education and training boards (LETBs) will share the proposed 2014-15 transition plans with providers so they can plan for the additional changes in income associated with the postgraduate medical tariffs. DH and Health Education England will give final approval of the transition plans for 2014-15 later in the year once SHAs and LETBs have had these discussions.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/02/implementation-tariffs/>

7. NHS appointments

Professor Stuart Ralston has been confirmed as the new Chair of the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). The CHM advises on matters relating to the safety, quality and efficacy of medicines as well as the collection of adverse drug reactions. Stuart Ralston is Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Edinburgh and Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist in NHS Lothian.

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/Medicinesadvisorybodies/CommissiononHumanMedicines/index.htm>

8. Liverpool Care Pathway

The NHS Commissioning Board has set up a review of the Liverpool Care Pathway and the implications for patients and their relatives.

The review will examine various elements of the LCP, including:

- the experience and opinions of patients and families;
- the experience and opinions of health professionals;

- hospital complaints;
- the role of financial incentives in respect of the LCP;
- the literature about benefits and limitations of the Liverpool Care Pathway.

The review will report to ministers and to the NHS Commissioning Board in the summer.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/policy-areas/social-care/end-of-life/>

The Trust has prepared an information sheet for relatives that explain how the Liverpool Care Pathway is used in the Trust and to address any concerns raised following the recent media focus on this issue.

9. Consultation on the vision for the Horton General Hospital

It had been our intention, in collaboration with the Clinical Commissioning Group, to start a consultation on our new vision for the Horton in March. However, we have been advised that official guidance from the Department of Health and the Cabinet Office recommends that any public consultation should not be started during the period of 'purdah' leading up to the local elections and that this would be a particular problem because HOSC, the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, would be dissolved for most of the period of consultation. Therefore, we are talking to local stakeholders including GPs, MPs, local councillors and the Community Partnership Network about a new timetable. We will continue to engage with the local community prior to starting an official consultation after the May local elections.

10. NHS Innovation Prize

Congratulations to Dr Paul Altman and colleagues as their project (electronic requesting and reporting of laboratory and radiology services with positive patient (PPID) specimen labelling at the bedside) has received another accolade. PPID was recently highly commended in the recent Department of Health, NHS Innovation Challenge Prizes 2013.

11. Brain Doctors

The skill and dedication of some of our healthcare professionals was the focus of a three-part series for BBC2 in February. 'Brain Doctors' follows on from the highly acclaimed Craniofacial Surgery Series of 2011 and was watched by more than 5 million viewers.

Sir Jonathan Michael, Chief Executive

March 2013