

Board of Directors Meeting

Subject: Chief Executive's Report
Date: Thursday 30 October 2014
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Lead Director: Paul O'Connor

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the latest issues affecting the Trust.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the content of this paper and specifically where verbal updates will be given at the Board meeting.

Relevant Strategic Objectives (please mark in bold)	
Achieve the best patient experience	Achieve financial sustainability
Improve patient safety and provide high quality care	Build successful relationships with external organisations and regulators
Attract, develop and motivate effective teams	

Links to the BAF and Corporate Risk Register	
Details of additional risks associated with this paper (<i>may include CQC Essential Standards, NHSLA, NHS Constitution</i>)	N/A
Links to NHS Constitution	N/A
Financial Implications/Impact	N/A
Legal Implications/Impact	N/A
Partnership working & Public Engagement Implications/Impact	
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before	N/A
Monitoring and Review	N/A
Is a QIA required/been completed? If yes provide brief details	N/A

1. Day of Industrial Action

On Monday 13th October, 49 staff were on strike as part of the NHS Trade Unions Industrial Campaign to secure fair pay for all NHS workers. The 4 hour stoppage occurred between 7am and 11am on 13th October, followed by action short of a strike for the rest of the week up to the 17th October. The Trust absorbed the impact such that no main clinic or other service was adversely affected. I remain concerned however, that should industrial action or action short of industrial action continue for any lengthy period, services may ultimately feel the impact. We continue to work in partnership with Trade Unions to agree exemptions and protocols for strike action through our Joint Staff Partnership Forum.

2. PAS Changeover

I am very pleased to report that the big changeover date for the Trust's new PAS system which came into effect on 4th October was managed through a combination of significant preparation, training of our staff and a huge amount of additional work and goodwill by many of our staff and partner organisations. The changeover was a potentially very disruptive period for the Trust, but the impact as a result of strong planning and action was to deliver a new PAS system for the Trust with relatively little disruption. The Trust will conduct its own benefits realisation exercise in due course and will report the results back to the Board.

3. Pathology Open Day – 14th October

Under the leadership of Dr Shafiq Gill, Histopathology Head of Service and Clair Sloney, Histopathology Laboratory Manager, the Cellular Pathology department held its 2nd Annual Open Day on the 14th October to celebrate its achievements during the previous year and highlight further challenges in the future. Poster displays, presentations and discussion events were held and very strong and positive feedback was gained from many of our own staff and external visitors, including representatives from the Royal College of Pathology. It is hoped to showcase the work of the department at a subsequent Board meeting so that all Board members will be able to understand more fully the work of the department and recognise its success.

4. Health Education East Midlands Annual Inspection Visit

On the 14th October, a team of inspectors from Health Education East Midlands visited the Trust to assess the quality of multi-disciplinary training across various specialties and professions. Whilst some verbal feedback was given by the inspectors to the Trust at the end of the inspection day, we await the final report, which should be with the Trust by mid November. I am concerned however, that whilst many of the specialty areas visited are likely to be seen as acceptable, the inspectors did raise concerns which have subsequently been passed onto the CQC in respect of a limited number of our specialties. These are being addressed directly with the appropriate specialties and a verbal update will be given at the Trust Board meeting.

5. Executive to Executive Team Meeting between the Trust and local CCGs

On the 15th of October, we began what will be a series of meetings between the Executive Management Team of the Trust and the combined Executive Management Teams of Mansfield & Ashfield and Newark & Sherwood CCGs. I am pleased to report that the exercise was beneficial in identifying and making significant progress in terms of the Trust's cash management, and further details of this have already been reported to the Trust Board's Finance & Performance Committee. I would expect subsequent meetings of this forum to shift the agenda further into service delivery as we consider the overlap between the Trust's improvement and operational agenda and the wider health economy agenda described in the "Better + Together" programme.

6. Seven Day Working Across the East Midlands

On the 16th of October the East Midlands Acute Trust Chief Executives meeting received the latest results of a collective programme which analyses the differential ability across 10 Acute Trusts in the East Midlands to deliver a comprehensive set of services on a 7 day basis. We know that new tariff arrangements will be introduced at the beginning of the 2016/17 contracting round, which could adversely impact on any Trust that does not achieve against a set of strictly defined performance criteria in respect of 7 day working. The Trust is aware of its own position in respect of 7 day working and this collective project is very useful in mapping the relative strengths and weaknesses of 7 day working across a larger regional footprint. This will enable the Trust to take forward any ideas that are developed under the 7 day working transformation programme with other acute partners who will inevitably be facing similar problems. Whilst there is not significant difference across the 10 Trusts in respect of their overall performance against 7 day working criteria, there is significant difference when the performance is drilled down to individual specialty data.

7. Mock Internal CQC Visit

On the 17th October I was pleased to take part in a very large all day programme in which a number of teams were allocated different areas of the Trust to inspect using wherever possible the inspection criteria that is followed by the CQC. The purpose of the mock internal CQC visit was primarily to check on progress made since the April 2014 CQC Inspection, in the knowledge that we can expect a further re-inspection from the CQC at any time in the next few weeks. The very detailed feedback from each of the teams at the end of the day demonstrated that there is much that the Trust can be proud of in terms of the quality of its services, whilst at the same time there were many areas for further improvement that were identified across the Trust. Fuller details of the day are described elsewhere in the papers to this Board meeting.

8. Microbiology Accreditation

We have received confirmation from Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd that all previous non-conformities in the Trust's Microbiology department have now been cleared and as such, the department will maintain accredited status.

Paul O'Connor
Chief Executive