

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF LEICESTER NHS TRUST**

**REPORT TO: TRUST BOARD**

**DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2014**

**REPORT BY: CHAIRMAN**

**SUBJECT: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS**

---

Introductory Comments

This is my first Trust Board meeting. I look forward to working with my Board colleagues, staff, our partners in the local health and social care economy, patient and community groups, and other stakeholders. I believe that we should all have a common focus on how we can deliver safe, high quality health services to patients in the most efficient manner. In order to do this we have to demonstrate that we are receptive to emerging issues after considering the experience of our patients and responsive in terms of changing how we do things if that is necessary.

Immediate Priorities

My immediate priorities will be to focus on three areas:

The first is to ensure that current and emerging vacancies on the Trust Board are filled. It is important that we have Non-Executive and Executive Board members with the necessary skills and experience if we are to make the most out of creating opportunities from the many challenges which we face. This means that the Trust Board (which contains a majority of lay members including myself together with the Chief Executive and his team) has to work together in order to utilise these different perspectives effectively.

The second is that as a Board we need to have a clear sense of our strategy, vision and purpose and ensure that everyone within the Trust (and outside) understands it. We will have to ask ourselves whether any part of the strategy needs to be changed in the light of experience or assumptions which may no longer be valid. In addition to steering the organisation and thinking about the future, the Board is also responsible for holding to account (or supervising) the delivery of the strategy or performance of the Executive Team whilst ensuring value for money. This means that we will have to ask ourselves as a Board how the flow of information to us and decisions we take can be most efficient and effective. We also need to ensure that everyone understands that we will have a continued focus or eye on the ball.

The third is that we seek to understand the perspectives and experience of staff and patients within the Trust and others beyond. Executive members of the Board will inevitably have insights about what is happening within the Trust because of their interaction with staff and operational issues. My objective is to ensure that within the constraints of being part time

appointments, both myself and other Non-Executive members of the Board are able to interact as much as possible with patients and staff as well as stakeholders.

### First Impressions

I have now had the opportunity to visit a number of clinical areas within the Trust and have been struck by the passion and pride with which some doctors and nurses talk about their service. I believe that innovation (or changes that lead to improvements) will come from ideas which they will have. I want to see how we can not only encourage fresh ideas and thinking but actually see them being put into practice.

I have also had an opportunity to talk to patients or groups representing their interests. Many of these discussions have made favourable references to the care that has been provided but some have been less positive. We need to ensure that we draw the appropriate learning and analysis from patient experiences and then act on it.

### Concluding Comments

The Trust is an extremely large organisation operating within the communities of Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland (and patients coming from beyond for some services). Whilst the core business is delivering services in the health economy the Trust Board also needs to have a sense of how the organisation is contributing positively to the economic and social wellbeing of these communities. Finally we need to have the ambition and ability to make ourselves an exemplar and to be recognised as such.

Karamjit Singh CBE  
Chairman, UHL Trust