

Chairman's Note

Author: Karamjit Singh, Trust Chairman

Trust Board paper C

Dear Board Member,

Key considerations

Since we last met the key things on my mind have been:

- As a Board how do we seek to reassure internal and external stakeholders that notwithstanding the current financial and other pressures impacting on the NHS both locally and at a national level, we are committed to our strategic objectives and a continuing focus on safety, quality and efficiency?
- As a Board how do we take stock of the wholesale change in terms of our composition during the past twelve months (for differing individual reasons) and assess our relative effectiveness as a decision making forum?

Priority Items & Questions

In preparation for our next board meeting on 5th November 2015 I would like to highlight the following issues:

Since the last Trust Board meeting I have attended meetings organised by the Leicester Mercury Patients Panel, our Patient Partners Panel, the Better Care Programme Board, other groups, and a joint Board to Board meeting with our colleagues from the three CCGs and LPT. The issues raised include current and possible winter pressures in terms of emergency admissions, what the implications of current financial pressures were for our overall strategy and approach, and cross cutting themes across the entire health system such as workforce planning. I have drawn attention to the fact that the overwhelming part of this Boards business is conducted in public (with exemptions for commercially sensitive matters or individual privacy) and this always included a monthly report on emergency performance. Given the changing financial picture at a national level and other emerging issues, we will be discussing the assumptions underpinning our strategy, financial modelling and reconfiguration plans for the next five years at our next Thinking Day. It is also clear that our Trust, our local health system and the NHS as a whole is facing a mismatch both currently and in the future in terms of our workforce needs and the supply that is available. We need to be innovative if we are to address ongoing challenges in this area (which also has financial implications because of a

continuing dependence on agency staffing at higher levels than it need be) and I look forward to a future Thinking Day session focusing on future plans and milestones for their implementation. I also believe we can adopt some of the practices in other NHS Trusts such encouraging existing staff to make recommendations of potential recruits (both UK wide and internationally) and an active and current focus on return to work.

1. I would also like to draw the Board's attention to the following issues :
 - (a) the recent recruitment competition for a Non Executive Director has resulted in the NHSTDA (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health) appointing Andrew Johnson with effect from 1st November 2015. I am sure the Board will look forward to working with Andrew who will bring relevant insights both as a patient in the past and from his professional experiences.
 - (b) Jane Wilson , the chair of the Integrated Finance, Performance and Investment Committee (IFPIC) and the Board's Vice Chair will be stepping down from the Board at the end of December 2015 after six years . Whilst we will have an opportunity to express our collective appreciation on other occasions, I would like to state how much I personally have appreciated Jane's support and contribution.
 - (c) In the light of this I would like to nominate Martin Traynor as the chair of the Integrated Finance, Performance and Investment Committee effective from 1st January 2016 and as Vice Chairman of the Board from the same date. I would also like to nominate Ian Crowe as Chairman of the Charitable Funds Committee effective from 1st April 2016 and attending as a Committee Member until then. I would propose that Sarah Dauncey and Richard Moore continue as chairs of the Quality Assurance Committee and Audit Committee respectively.
 - (d) I would like to ask the Board to formally consider these nominations and proposals.
 - (e) We will also be reviewing our Board and committee performance at the December Thinking Day and consider whether any changes are necessary.

2. I am conscious that we serve a diverse community. One manifestation of this is the celebration of different festivals both recently in the immediate future. The Muslim community have recently celebrated Eid after fasting during Ramadan and during November we have Divali which is a significant festival for both Hindus and Sikhs, as well as celebrating the birth of the founder of the Sikh religion. In December of course we will be celebrating Christmas. As a major organisation within our local community we should recognise and celebrate our social mosaic.

3. I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming Board meeting on 5th November 2015.

Regards,

Karamjit Singh *Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust*