

Chairman's Note

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Dear Board Member,

Key considerations

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

- As a Board how do we ensure that our relationship with the University of Leicester and the other two universities within our locality (De Montfort and Loughborough) are strengthened and what are the outcomes that we should be seeking from these closer partnerships?
- As a Board how do we encourage innovation or creative thinking on the part of front line staff and also raise our profile in terms of encouraging this?

Priority Items & Questions

- The Board is aware that we are actively seeking to develop closer relationships with the three universities within this area. An obvious example is the support that we are giving to the application for securing renewed funding of the three BRU Research Units located within our Trust (with specific links to Leicester and Loughborough Universities) and I recently took part in being interviewed for a video recording underlining this. We now have a regular series of meetings with the senior leadership of the University of Leicester and tangible results from this include the awards of honorary contracts to many of our clinicians after a robust assessment process with renewed interest on their part in championing these closer links. Future dimensions of this relationship need to be developed but a major outcome of this ought to be the creation of an Academic Science and Research Network that attracts senior clinicians with high research profiles to the Trust and this health economy. We have also sought to develop closer linkages with the Nursing School at De Montfort University because addressing our current and future manpower shortages is a critical challenge for us. I would like to pay particular tribute to Professor Alison Goodall, whose term as the University nominated Non-Executive Director is completed at the end of June, for her contribution to deepening these relationships. We look forward to developing a similar close working relationship with her successor Professor Philip Baker, Dean of Leicester Medical School, who will take up his appointment as the University nominated Non-

Executive Director on 1st July 2016. I would like to see a future session at a Thinking Day which focuses on the nature of these closer relationships between the health economy and the three universities and what outcomes we should be seeking.

- Since the last Board meeting I have visited nearly forty wards across the three sites at differing times during each of these weeks and most of my interaction has been with front line staff . I have also tried to visit staff in non-public facing areas that provide essential support to wards such as medical records . I appreciate that Non Executive and Executive colleagues will have time pressures and other commitments but I hope that our programme of safety walkabouts and other visits continues to increase so that there continues to be a high visibility of the Board. I would like to share with you the staff pleasure at being visited and asked about their experiences. I have always been struck by a sense of pride and commitment to undertaking these roles in sometimes very challenging circumstances and the readiness to provide ideas. I am sure you will remember the physical suggestion boxes (several decades ago ?) and I think we need to find an electronic equivalent to facilitate and encourage this type of knowledge transfer or insights.

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- Finally I would like to remind colleagues of the forthcoming annual multi faith service on 8th July 2016 and which was initiated last year as an annual event.

I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming Board meeting on 2nd June 2016.

Regards,
Karamjit Singh

Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust