

# Chairman's Note

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**Trust Board paper C**

Dear Board Member,

## Key considerations

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

- As a large organisation serving our diverse community of patients, their carers and the public at large, how do we ensure that we balance the need to ensure safety and quality throughout our services against a background of increasing financial constraints?
- As a Board how do we ensure that we maintain a range of diverse experiences and perspectives around the table?
- As one of the largest NHS organisations in England how should the Trust Board ensure it is focused on sourcing to meet our manpower needs both now and in the future?

## Priority Items & Questions

In preparation for our next board meeting I would like to highlight the following priority items and a few specific questions to consider.

1. Since the last Trust Board meeting we have had a number of indications that the overall financial climate facing the NHS and other public services is likely to remain constrained. This means that this Board has to balance its responsibilities in meeting financial targets whilst ensuring that safety and quality is uppermost in our minds. We have a duty to reassure our staff and the public that we are taking all the steps that are necessary to avoid another scenario similar to that of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust occurring. Board colleagues attend meetings of our Integrated Finance, Performance and Investment Committee and Quality Assurance Committee (as well as Audit Committee which plays an important role). I have read reports and heard commentary from executives that as an organisation we have robust governance processes in place to guard against this. We will be reviewing Board and committee performance at a Thinking Day and this will be one of the questions which I will pose for discussion because of its overarching importance.
2. The Trust Board is invited to note that Martin Traynor has been reappointed for a further two year term by NHS Improvement and I would like to congratulate him on your behalf. Martin brings a wealth of experience and insights to the Board. We will shortly be advertising for another Non-Executive Director and an Associate (non-voting) Non-

Executive Director. The particular focus of these two roles will be to seek candidates with a clinical background (using this term in the widest possible sense) for the former and for the latter seeking someone who may not be a clinician but has a record of implementing change by working clinicians. This is to reflect a diversity of experience and skills around the table. It is of course the case that whilst seeking as diverse a field as possible that appointments will be on merit. Given the complexity of the issues which the Board has to consider it is important that we focus on ensuring high calibre individuals are identified during this process.

3. Since the last meeting of the Trust Board when Dr Nil Sanganee , our GP representative, informed me that he was no longer able to attend because of his practice commitments I have written to Dr Azhar Farookhi , the Chair of Leicester City Commissioning Group seeking a nomination and will report on any developments when they occur.
4. Last week I had the privilege, along with many Board colleagues, to attend our Annual Caring At Its Best awards and it was an uplifting occasion. The range of applications exemplifying the very best (and difficult judging decisions that were made) of Caring At Its Best from our staff and volunteers highlight the sense of pride, commitment, empathy and passion that they bring to their individual and collective team roles. The videos and overall organisation of the event by those staff involved in that event was very professional.
5. In the same vein I would also like to draw attention to our Annual Public Meeting which took place since the last Board meeting. The stalls displaying a wide range of activities at the Trust demonstrated the commitment of staff and volunteers, and again the organisation of the event was very professional. My own view was that the Chief Executive's presentation and responses to questions from the audience elicited a high degree of engagement and interest.

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming board meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Regards,

Karamjit Singh

*Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust*

