

Chairman's Note

Author: Karamjit Singh

Trust Board paper C

Dear Board Member,

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

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

- The performance (and associated financial and staffing challenges) in the Emergency Department continues to remain amongst the forefront of my concerns. A critical issue here is the implications which this has for the remainder of the Trust.
- Changes in the composition of the Trust Board and associated developments.
- The Trust's formal response to the NHS England consultation proposing changes that would affect EMCHC service provision.
- Continuing our focus on Board effectiveness.

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. The Board is of course aware that the enlarged (and new) Emergency Department has been operating since April 26th. Unfortunately we have not seen immediate dividends from this in terms of performance and there have been some very difficult periods which will be covered in reports elsewhere on the Board agenda. This is a complex situation with people, process and resource dimensions and it also has implications for the remainder of the Trust in areas such as potential cancellations of elective operations and pressures on our bed capacity. Whilst it is not the function of this Board to debate operational issues in detail I have asked the Chief Executive to ensure that the monthly Board reports continue to focus on three questions:
 - what is our diagnosis of what is happening?
 - what actions are we taking to address this?
 - what timescales are we setting ourselves to monitor the results and taking appropriate corrective action (if this is considered necessary) ?
2. I have to report with regret that Dr Shirley Crawshaw has tendered her resignation from the Trust Board since our last meeting. The reason for this was that she was offered a

senior professional role in New Zealand which she felt she could not refuse. Whilst I do not think it would be a fruitful exercise to undertake another recruitment exercise for a new Non Executive Director before September. I will circulate a draft job description in due course and invite comments from Board colleagues about areas of expertise or experience that would strengthen the Board.

3. We also noted that Richard Mitchell, the Chief Operating Officer, left the Trust last month and we wish him well in his new role. The recruitment process for his successor is underway and I would like to welcome Tim Lynch, who has been appointed as the interim Chief Operating Officer.
4. I would like to report with great pleasure that Ian Crowe has been reappointed as a Non Executive Director by the NHS Improvement Authority for a four year term effective from 1st July 2017.
5. The Board will be aware that the national consultation process concerning the future of the EMCHC and other children's cardiac centres which is being undertaken by NHS England(NHSE) will be concluded during this month. One of the items on this month's Board agenda is the Trust formal response to this consultation and it is important that we satisfy ourselves that this makes the most considered and analytical yet robust case on behalf of the EMCHC. Last week some NED colleagues and myself visited the EMCHC in order to meet with staff and underline our support from a Trust Board perspective.
6. Last month the Board devoted its Thinking Day to considering a number of issues relating to its own effectiveness. This month's Board Thinking Day will continue this theme by focusing on Governance Frameworks for Recovering and Maintaining Performance with a specific focus on quality. Given that national regulators are now focusing on NHS Boards and their effectiveness or well led frameworks this will be a timely discussion for us about key learning points arising out of these two sessions and any changes that we may feel are necessary.

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming board meeting on 6 July 2017.

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