

# Chairman's Note

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**Trust Board paper E**

Dear Colleagues

There are two issues that I would like to focus on in this note.

The first of these issues is the implications of the wider changes mooted in the Long Term Plan for both our own organisation and that of the local health and social care system. I recently attended a meeting of Chairs and Chief Executives of provider and commissioner organisations which was addressed by Baroness Dido Harding (Chair of NHSI) and Simon Stevens (CEO of NHSE). Both of these organisations are reorganising their regional presence and how they operate at a national level. Their combined messages were that all this will inevitably have result in changes not only of how organisations operate but also the mindsets and behaviours of people within them. The financial and quality challenges (and opportunities) to ensure that our local communities can benefit from the most efficient clinical pathways will require a common vision for the future, a willingness to empower clinicians, to encourage cross organisational working and with a patient and public perspective that is taken note of. A recent workshop attended by local health and social care providers and Healthwatch representatives was encouraging because many of these themes were being articulated. The test of course will be how and the pace with which these expressions of intent are implemented. In common with our partner organisations we are an independent sovereign Board with legal and fiduciary duties that cannot be ignored until there is any change in the statutory frameworks. Nevertheless all of us as separate Boards and organisations need to work together if the aspirations with the Long Term Plan are to be turned into reality.

The second of these issues is how we ensure as a Board that the renewed focus on the Quality strategy is understood and acted on appropriately throughout our organisation so that we have a clarity of focus and alignment. The Chief Executive has brought new energy to this issue and as a Board we are and will continue to focus on the important dimensions of leadership and culture in our deliberations. Our discussions both in this Board and its committees continue to highlight the various dimensions that will impact on the successful (or otherwise) implementation of the Quality strategy. Our recent discussions with senior leaders within the organisation were insightful and are part of a journey which we need to take together. Similarly the upcoming focus groups that will be led by the Chief Executive this month will be another opportunity to draw on the energy and insights of staff. Another key dimension here is how we harness patient and public involvement so that these insights and contributions add to the quality of our services. All of us will be aware that a potential inspection by the Care Quality Commission later this year will be a practical test of the extent to which we have achieved this common focus, alignment and outcomes.

I am pleased to report that as an organisation we have received veterans accreditation and I would like to congratulate Ian Crowe and our Director of People and Organisational Development for their work in this area.

I would also like to report on the enthusiasm and competitiveness shown by staff in ED in demonstrating different aspects of diversity on International Nursing Day and to congratulate Biju Simon and his colleagues for developing this idea.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Board meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Regards,

Karamjit Singh  
Chair, UHL