

Chairman's Note

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Trust Board paper C

Dear Board Member,

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

I recently attended a seminar organised by PWC on the theme of *Quality versus Financial Pressure* which was attended by a number of Chairs and Non Executives from various NHS Trusts. The title is a very apt one summarising as it does the current dilemma facing Boards such as ours with a responsibility for delivering high quality services to our patients against a background context of an ageing population, rising demand and various capacity constraints such as workforce, estate, and finance. The discussion encompassed all of these factors (and other themes) and there was a clear consensus that this was not a binary choice between two courses of action at the end of each spectrum but required clear leadership and judgement to utilise existing resources effectively. Critical to this was a willingness to change existing patterns of service provision and workforce patterns as well as taking note of ongoing developments such as the Model Hospital and Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT). There was a universal acceptance that financial performance could not be allowed to supersede a focus on achieving quality outcomes, as was the case in past high profile public inquiries into specific Trusts. It was also noted that national regulators such as the Care Quality Commission and NHS Improvement were working closely together on themes such as this.

The Trust Board will continue with its focus on a series of issues relating to its own development and performance at the next Thinking Day on 11th October 2018 and its role in shaping and influencing organisational culture. This will be a continuous theme during the Thinking Days for the period up to March 2019 and how effective individual and collective leadership and governance process leads to tangible change in outcomes.

I am very pleased to welcome our new Chief Nurse, Carolyn Fox, to her first Trust Board meeting.

I am also pleased to welcome Ms Harsha Kotecha, Chair of the reconstituted Leicester and Leicestershire Healthwatch, to this Board meeting. Harsha also brings considerable insights about the patient experience in her other role chairing the Patient and Public groups linked to GP surgeries within the city of Leicester. I have invited Harsha to attend our Board meetings until 31st March 2020 with the proviso that a discussion takes place with Rutland Healthwatch before that date in order to decide between themselves how future Healthwatch representation on our Trust Board will be organised.

It also gives me great pleasure to inform the Board that Martin Traynor has had a new four year term as a Non-Executive Director confirmed by NHS Improvement. This term began on 1st October 2018 and will continue, subject to satisfactory assessment each year, until 30th September 2022. Martin has made an important and significant contribution to the Board and Trust during the past four years.

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming Board meeting on 4th October 2018.

Regards,

Karamjit Singh

Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust