

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 large organisation serving our diverse community of patients, their carers and the public at large, how do we ensure that we are reflective in terms of our workforce and how should we assess the outcomes?
- As a large organisation operating within a very diverse community what actions can we take which show that we take our responsibility as a corporate citizen seriously?
- As one of the largest NHS organisations within our local health and social care setting how do we give practical effect to the concept of interdependence and the implications of this for ourselves and our partner organisations?

Priority Items & Questions

In preparation for our next board meeting on 6th August I would like to highlight the following issues:

1. Since the last Trust Board meeting where I raised the first question listed above, I am pleased to inform Board colleagues that the task and finish group (including three external invitees) has been established with formal terms of reference and a timetable of meetings that are planned to deliver a completed report by the end of this year. This would allow the Board an opportunity to revisit these issues at a Thinking Day approximately one year after our original discussion. It is envisaged that the Equality and Diversity update paper being presented to the Board this month will provide the starting point for the task and finish group.
2. I would also like to draw the Board's attention to a multi faith service that the UHL Chaplaincy are conducting at Leicester Cathedral at 3pm on 8th August 2015 in order to celebrate Caring At Its Best. I have to confess that I had suggested this new venture (which I hope could become a regular event) because of my discussions with many people of different faiths who live and work in this community. I am grateful to Mark Burleigh and his colleagues for supporting this and the multi faith readings in the service

will underline the common themes that bring people together. I hope that Board colleagues will attend if possible and also make staff, patients and other people in the wider community aware of this. There is of course a wider theme to this which has posed the following questions in my mind :

- 2.1 As an organisation should and if so how do we ensure an appropriate focus on engaging with our local community in ways that are not immediately defined as part of our service provision as a health provider?
 - 2.2 How do we try and measure success in this area?
3. Since the last meeting of the Trust Board I have had the opportunity to reflect on the increasing need to think and operate in a partnership with other parts of the health and social care system. The challenges of providing efficient and effective health services to increasing and different needs within the population combined with finite limits to resources underline the need for transformative change not only in our organisation but also within our partners. We are fortunate that within this local region we have a Better Care Together programme which seeks to give practical effect to this need for joint working between ourselves and partner organisations. For this to work there has to be mindset change starting at senior levels, a willingness to change clinical practice across organisational boundaries, a clear steer from Boards and an understanding of how external and internal scenarios are unfolding. We have begun to have regular reports at our Board about the Better Care Together programme and I look forward to seeing comprehensive and clear risk registers showing what is happening (or could happen) across the health and social care system and this information is seen by the Boards of all participating organisations? This inevitably poses questions in my mind such as what does success look like in terms of partnership working and how do we measure it?
4. With this in mind I have asked John Adler (our Chief Executive) to include a session at our next Thinking Day on the overall context to the Better Care Together programme together with a reminder of the major decisions that we need to make over the next year (and subsequently) if we are to achieve our strategic objectives.

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming board meeting on 6th August 2015.

Regards,
Karamjit Singh

Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust