

Chairman's note

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Trust Board paper D

Purpose of report:

This paper is for:	Description	Select (X)
Decision	To formally receive a report and approve its recommendations OR a particular course of action	
Discussion	To discuss, in depth, a report noting its implications without formally approving a recommendation or action	X
Assurance	To assure the Board that systems and processes are in place, or to advise a gap along with treatment plan	
Noting	For noting without the need for discussion	

Previous consideration:

Meeting	Date	Please clarify the purpose of the paper to that meeting using the categories above
CMG Board (specify which CMG)		
Executive Board		
Trust Board Committee		
Trust Board		

Dear Colleagues,

Our Focus On The Quality Strategy

As you know I have commented in previous Notes for Trust Board meetings about some of my reflections about our progress during the past year and our plans for the future. A key theme is our focus to embed the Quality Strategy ('Becoming the Best') as part of a sustained effort to build the capability, organisational processes and culture within the Trust in order to sustain improvements leading to high quality outcomes in our services.

A critical part of this is how visible leadership on the part of the Trust Board and senior leaders within the organisation can underline this by encouraging the alignment of staff to these objectives. Both the Chief Executive and I have agreed that following the next Board meeting (and for future Board meetings) an integral part of the Board agenda will be an active walkabout session to various areas. Future Trust Board Thinking Days will also have a similar (and longer time) component with an emphasis on linking these visits to the Quality Strategy.

All of us have recognised from previous discussion the critical impact that leadership and culture has in shaping better outcomes for our patients and motivating our staff. Both of these groups (and their perceptions/experiences) are critical to what needs to be a long term sand sustained process of organisational improvement.

Our Focus On Immediate Priorities

Our patients and regulators rightly see us as part of a system with other health and social care partners. However until there are changes in the existing legislative frameworks as an independent free standing

Board we will continue to have specific legal, performance and fiduciary responsibilities . The three issues I would personally see as priorities for the next six months or so are:

- ensuring that we provide high quality service outcomes for patients within the financial resources that we have available to us ;
- ensuring that we provide high quality service outcomes for patients within the performance targets that we aspire to in areas such as emergency and urgent care . This is not to ignore the importance of other services but recognises this pathway is an important bell weather for what happens internally within the organisation as well as externally in the wider system;
- ensuring that we are able to demonstrate to the Care Quality Commission during the forthcoming inspection that our focus is on delivering high quality service outcomes for patients with an appropriate balancing of clinical and other risks.

All three of these themes are dependent upon the motivation and commitment of our hard working staff.

I envisage that we will have several opportunities to discuss these issues over the coming months which all have an internal organisational as well as a wider system dimension.

External Activities

Since the last Trust Board meeting I participated in an all day event organised by the Health Services Journal in judging seventeen projects under the heading of Acute Sector Innovation. A small number of these projects will be highlighted at the national HSI Awards function later in the Autumn. An interesting feature was assessing these entries within dimensions such as their novel or innovative nature; potential impact in service and financial value terms; the learning in service and organisational terms; and the potential spread elsewhere of the ideas and project.

The Health and Social Care Select Committee has launched an inquiry into implementing the NHS Long Term Plan and aimed at assessing the case for investment in areas such as capital investment, education and training, social care and public health. I was invited (as part of a group convened by NHS Providers) to join a roundtable discussion with members of the committee in order to discuss these issues.

Other Activities

I was approached by NHSI for the Trust to consider taking part in the next iteration of the NEXT scheme, which effectively is a mentoring scheme for potential NHS Non-Executive Directors, and who have been through a selection process organised by NHSI. I agreed to this on behalf of the Trust and was also pleased that Andrew Johnson has agreed to act as mentor. The individual who will be coming to Trust Board and other meetings as an Associate Non-Executive Director for the next twelve months is Vipal Karavadra. Vipal has been attending our Trust Board meetings as a member of the public for some months; lives in Leicestershire; is actively involved with the Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People; as well as founder of a Commercial Finance Brokers organisation. I hope there is an opportunity here for two-way learning for all of us.

I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming Trust Board meeting on 5th September 2019.

Regards
Karamjit Singh
Chairman