

Chairman's Note

Author: Karamjit Singh

Trust Board paper C revised

Dear Colleagues

BOARD AND COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE

At the end of March, we agreed and implemented revised Trust Board and Board Committee governance arrangements in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. Broadly speaking, I have received positive feedback from Board colleagues on the operation of these arrangements since then.

We agreed that we would review the arrangements after three months. While they will continue to remain in place as we move through restoration, recovery and reset of our services, it is appropriate that our governance arrangements are kept under review in the light of the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions by the Government.

I therefore propose that we extend the current arrangements for a period of three months, ie to the end of September 2020.

During this period, I will work with the Acting Chief Executive and Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs to develop initial proposals for our Board and Board Committee governance going forward. We will have an opportunity to discuss the emerging proposals at a future informal session of the Board, ahead of any formal recommendations being presented to us at a public Board meeting for approval and implementation.

OUR FOCUS ON DELIVERY

We have previously discussed the ten overarching principles that will be guiding the future direction of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland health system to which we should be an active contributor, both in terms of formulating strategy and in delivering better outcomes for our local communities. We are also, like our other system partners, a Board with responsibility for the delivery of its own services.

Over the next five years I would like to suggest that as a Board we focus on the following five themes (as part of our contribution to the ten principles):-

- (1) maintaining the quality of our services at their current CQC rating of Good and ultimately to achieving an Outstanding rating;
- (2) ensuring the restoration and transformation of our services to meet the current and emerging needs of our local communities, whilst ensuring adequate ongoing provision in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic;
- (3) delivering a reconfiguration programme that is on budget and on time, and is aligned to the system wide transformation of health services that is necessary to meet the future needs of our local communities;
- (4) achieving financial sustainability through the delivery of focused efficiency and performance programmes within the resources available to us, and
- (5) addressing health inequalities within our diverse local communities as part of a sustained system wide approach to these themes.

Focusing on these themes above does not detract from our responsibility as a university teaching hospital to emphasise the importance of teaching and research; recognising the key role that our staff have played and will play; or how essential it is to ensure there is meaningful engagement and clarity of communication throughout with our patients and local communities.

We will be discussing our potential reconfiguration proposals at a forthcoming informal Trust Board discussion this month.

SUPPORTING OUR BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC (BAME) COLLEAGUES

The global protests that have occurred following the tragic death in the US have focused attention on the wider question of disparities within the life opportunities and achievements of different ethnic groups both in this country and elsewhere. In the context of the NHS, both in our own Trust and elsewhere, we know that there is an imbalance between the numbers of BAME staff who are employed and their relative absence from senior levels. Given that staff are our most important asset and that perceptions about opportunities and development (favourable and unfavourable) are an important part of any organisations culture, as a Board we have to take responsibility for addressing this. We will be discussing these themes as part of our people issues discussion at a forthcoming informal Trust Board.

I envisage that we will have a similar discussion in the future about our role as a service provider to our diverse local communities.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Board meeting on 2nd July 2020.

Regards

Karamjit Singh
Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust