

# Chairman's Note

Author: Karamjit Singh

**Trust Board paper D**

Dear Colleagues

Let me start by wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year. In that spirit of optimism (and bearing in mind how the Chinese characters for 'opportunity' and 'crisis' are very similar) I would like to make a number of points about what I see as potential opportunities during this coming year. These relate to asking ourselves what priorities we should be focusing on as a Board, the degree to which we need to come up with some radical approaches to some key issues, the extent of our ambition, the pace with which we should be implementing them, and the measurable outcomes we should expect.

The publication of the national Long Term Plan provides us with the opportunity to reflect on what this means for UHL over the next five and ten year milestone points in addition to national imperatives and those agreed with our local health and social care partners. Now that the General Election is over we should as a Board also consider what the heightened political and public interest in the NHS means for us when setting priorities, timescales and outcomes.

Assuming that we all start from the premise that we should be focusing as a Board on the safety and quality of experience for our patients, then we need to consider a number of factors that facilitate this such as

- developing the skills and profile of our existing workforce and for the future;
- the financial strategy that brings us to a sustainable position in five years' time;
- how our estate is developed including making best use of the very welcome capital award of £450m for reconfiguration and achieving the best environmental impact;
- how the IT spinal capacity assists in enhancing clinical decision making.

We also have a responsibility as the Board for a major anchor institution which is physically rooted within our local communities, providing a public service as well as being an employer and procurer of services, to think about how we should play a visible role individually and collectively as well as focusing on delivering the positive impact of our priorities and outcomes for the communities we serve. This in my view should also include a wider vision of engagement beyond the formal consultation process linked to reconfiguration.

Given that 2020 is the national year for Nurses and Midwives we should not only be celebrating this and their contribution within UHL but also ask ourselves how we can seek to match those Trusts where there are waiting lists for nurses to join them. I would like to see an early Board discussion about the plans for recruitment, retention and development of existing and future nurses because of their critical role in providing clinical care.

I would also like to see future Thinking Day discussions over the next few months about other parts of the workforce; a comprehensive environmental and physical vision for our estate including reconfiguration; a financial strategy that is effective in delivering the sustainable outcomes which are required; and the lessons learnt from this winter period in planning for the next. This is not a comprehensive list and I would welcome suggestions to myself or Stephen Ward as we plan the agenda for the next few months.

During the past few weeks I have attended events within the Trust that reflect the faith diversity within our staff. These included a celebration of the Hindu festival of Divali, marking the 550th anniversary of the founder of the Sikh religion, and the Jewish festival of Chanukah. This of course is only one manifestation of

the tremendous diversity of experiences, energy and perceptions within our Trust and local communities that we need to tap into when reflecting on the current and future profiles of patients and staff.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Vicki Bailey on her reappointment as a Non Executive Director on the Trust Board by NHSI for a further four year term beginning 1st February 2020 to 31st January 2024. Similarly we should also congratulate Carolyn Fox, our Chief Nurse, on her award of OBE for services to nursing in the New Years Honours List.

I would also like to set out my personal appreciation to Ballu Patel for accompanying me in visiting all the wards at Glenfield (Christmas Eve), the General (New Years Eve), and the Royal Infirmary (New Years Day). Apart from the opportunity to meet and thank staff for their contributions as well as wishing them Seasonal Greetings, there were insightful conversations. I hope to repeat this exercise in the near future for staff in in patient facing areas.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Board meeting on 9th January 2020.

Regards  
Karamjit Singh  
Chairman