

# Chairman's Note

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Trust Board paper C

Dear Board Member,

## Key considerations

Since we last met the key things on my mind have been:

- As a Board how do we respond to the forthcoming CQC inspection and ensure that the entire organisation appreciates how much importance we attach to this?
- As a Board responsible for one of the largest employers in this region how do we respond to current pressures in securing enough staff with appropriate skills and experience as well as think about a more strategic longer term view over the next decade or so?
- As a Board how do we respond to the recently published report on palliative care within acute hospital settings and review our own performance?

## Priority Items & Questions

- The Board is aware of the forthcoming CQC comprehensive inspection and we have already allocated time at a number of Thinking Days to discuss the implications for any assessment of our own effectiveness as well as the focus within the organisation. I think it is important to send out a clear message within the Trust how much importance the Board attaches to the CQC inspection. One way of doing this is to be visible to frontline staff and give out clear and consistent messages. I intend to visit all ninety wards in the Trust during May and the early part of June. I will be inviting patient partners, Healthwatch representatives and CCG representatives as part of a duo during these visits. I hope that some Board colleagues will also be available during these visits and if this is not possible that they consider making some visits themselves. I think this should be seen as a collective response on the part of the Board and we could review our experiences at the June Thinking Day.
- With the incorporation of Interserve staff into the Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 the Trust will be employing some 15000 WTE staff. This will put us as possibly the largest employer within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and we are aware of consistent and current workforce challenges because of shortfalls in staff . One key area is nursing and it is appropriate that we focus on the largest component of our workforce by establishing a task and finish group operating within a defined timescale in order to identify strategies

and actions to address these shortages. We also have a corporate social responsibility and business need as a large employer with many different roles to consider how we can engage with our local communities in order to address our workforce gaps over the next decade. We have a number of really important initiatives such as apprenticeships, closer relationships with universities and the implications of this for professional training, our training and development activity that are linked to this. The Board will be focusing on these issues at its July Thinking Day.

- The Board will be aware of the audit report published earlier this week which focused on palliative care services within hospitals. This report and its implications will in the first instance be considered by Executive Directors and then at the Quality Assurance Committee. The quality of end of life care is an emotive issue but it is a very important indicator of an organisations culture and performance in providing appropriate respect and dignity to patients. I hope that as a Board we focus on current and future metrics and information in this area.

I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming Board meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Regards,  
Karamjit Singh

*Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust*