

Chairman's Note

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Trust Board paper C

Dear Board Member,

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

We will meet on the day designated as the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service. You will also have received a programme setting out the different events organised today with our health partners and celebrating this anniversary. In addition to pointing to the obvious significance of this anniversary in terms of the longevity and unique nature of the NHS as a public service based on the concept of universal access, I would like to highlight three additional issues.

The first issue is that whilst recognising there has been a considerable amount of public discourse (in the media and elsewhere) around the challenges that the National Health Service faces I would want to recognise the contribution the staff continue to make both to this Trust and to the health and social care system locally and nationally. Without their commitment this much-loved public service could not be sustained.

The second issue is that in celebrating the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service, our responsibility as a Board is to focus on the sustainability of this organisation and local system so that we continue to provide the services which our local communities use. This means that we have to recognise that health services have changed radically during the past seventy years with the advent of new techniques, skills, drugs and technology and begin to think about the nature and characteristics of the National Health Service as it celebrates its 80th anniversary. As a Trust Board we will have to consider how to promote change against a background of increasing complexity and ambiguity.

The third issue is continuing a focus on the quality and safety of the services which we provide to our patients and other users of our services. This is a theme that should be at the forefront of our thinking. At our last Thinking Day we considered the findings of the recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission and how we could seek to move our overall assessment from Requires Improvement to Good. At our next Thinking Day we will be considering the role of the Board in the light of research which has considered how health trusts have responded to the findings of the Francis report examining the service failures at the mid Staffordshire NHS Trust.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate two of my Non-Executive Board colleagues for the extension of their terms by NHS Improvement acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health. Professor Philip Baker has had his term extended to 30 June 2020 and Ballu Patel has had his term extended to 31 July 2020. Both of them have made significant contributions to Board and Committee deliberations as well as in their other activities and roles on behalf of the Trust.

I look forward to seeing you at the Board meeting on 5 July.

Regards,

Karamjit Singh
Chairman