

Chairman's Note

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Trust Board 7th July 2016

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Dear Board Member,

Key considerations

Colleagues may recall that in my note to Trust Board at its meeting on 7th January 2016 I set out the following two points as being the key things on my mind :

As a large organisation serving our diverse community of patients, their carers and the public at large, how do we ensure that our plans for the future (and particularly the next five years) are based on realistic assumptions about the resources that will be available , our own organisational capability and resilience , and our ability to achieve the performance milestones we set ourselves?

As one of the largest NHS organisations in England and a diverse range of service provision, how does Trust Board ensure it continues to focus on achieving an appropriate balance between keeping a focus on financial expenditure with safety and quality? What messages do we want to convey internally and externally in terms of our response to the recent CQC visit to our ED services?

We have a five year strategy and we dedicated a significant period of time at our Thinking Day in November 2015 discussing this followed by subsequent sessions considering our annual operating plans in some detail. We also know that there have been a series of developments affecting the Trust and the national environment as well as the health sector in general.

Priority Items & Questions

In preparation for our next board meeting I would like to highlight the following priority items and a few specific questions to consider.

During the past few months we have had the Comprehensive Spending Review dealing with public expenditure at a national level, the increasing pressures on health expenditure (and in particular capital) both from a national and local perspective, and other developments which may have potential implications for the planned reconfiguration of services within the Trust and in our local area. An important part of this is the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) process which is part of the national planning guidance for local health and social care

systems which needs a joined up view on the part of local health and social care leaders on the way forward. The Executive Team have assiduously engaged with colleagues in the health system locally, regionally and nationally and we are confident in the strength of our case for investment in this Trust and in the local health economy.

Since the mid Staffordshire investigation report and various initiatives, Trust Boards have had to demonstrate that they have an appropriate balance between focusing on financial expenditure and safety/quality in service provision. One recent event of course is the recent comprehensive inspection visit by the CQC and this will be reported on elsewhere in the Trust Board agenda. I would want to express my appreciation for all the effort that was made throughout the organisation in preparation for, during and after the visit. Whilst we will not know for some months what the overall grading for the Trust will be, we do know that some of our services have a national reputation for being exemplary and there are some which are under pressure. I believe our focus should now be to ensure that all our services are capable of being graded at a high level by the time we are inspected again by the CQC in two/three years time. This will require pace as well as well as focus and I believe reflects our values and five year strategy.

The Board will appreciate that the recent referendum result has introduced another aspect of uncertainty and particularly for our staff who have come to the Trust from EU countries as well as ourselves as an employer. I have sought to reassure our EU staff that as a Trust Board we value their contribution and that the organisation will be as supportive as possible.

Last week I attended and spoke at a conference in Leicester organised by the British chapter of the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. There were a number of interesting speakers including Sir David Nicholson, past CE of the NHS; Professor Steve Fields the CQC Chief Inspector for general practice; Jackie Daniel the CE of the Morecambe Bay NHS Trust (and which has a partnership arrangement with the Association) and Yvonne Coghill who is leading the national work on the Workforce Race Equality Scheme. The day before had seen a training session undertaken by acute trauma clinicians from India and some who had migrated to Florida. We also had a stand there and I understand our staff there had a positive day in terms of enquiries for roles. I did use the phrase “ Don’t be shy, apply!” in my talk !

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming board meeting on 7th July 2016

Regards,
Karamjit Singh

Chairman, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust