

ITEM: 2

**MEETING:**

Trust Board 21 November 2007

**TITLE:**

Chief Executive's Report

**SUMMARY:**

The CEO report updates the Board on key issues that do not warrant at this stage a full board paper.

**ACTION:**

Information

**REPORT FROM:**

David Sloman, Chief Executive

**SPONSORED BY:**

Not applicable

**Financial Validation**

Lead: Director of Finance

Not applicable

**Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance**

Lead: All directors

Not applicable

**Compliance with Healthcare Commission Core/Developmental Standards**

Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

**Reference:** Not applicable

**Compliance with Auditors' Local Evaluation standards (ALE)**

Lead: Director of Finance

**Reference:** Not applicable

**Compliance with requirements of FT application and monitoring regime**

Lead: Director of Strategy & Performance

**Reference:** Not applicable

## **1. Jo Liddane is appointed new chair of Whittington**

Mr Joe Liddane took up his post as chair of the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust on 1 November 2007. Joe Liddane qualified as a chartered accountant and has a distinguished career specialising in performance improvement in financial services and the private and public sectors. His sound financial and commercial experience is supported by a strong commitment to the local community. He is managing director of Setanta performance and was previously a partner in a leading UK accountancy firm and European managing director for a large American consultancy. Joe has lived locally for 27 years and is chairman of St Joseph's Parish Council.

## **2. Annual performance ratings**

The Whittington achieved the following overall scores in the Healthcare Commission's annual performance ratings for 2006/7 published in October

- **Quality of services: Good**
- **Use of resources: Good**

This means that the hospital provides good quality services and has performed well in terms of its use of resources, improving on last year when we received fair for use of resources.

I am delighted that the ratings reflect the staff's commitment and hard work to ensure that we meet our goal of being the hospital of choice for local people. The full details can be found at [www.healthcarecommission.org.uk](http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk)

*For further information contact David Sloman, Chief Executive on 0207 288 3636*

## **3. The Whittington Promise**

We are continuing work on the Whittington promise (below) which is an important part of our commitment to patients this year and in the future.

- We will have a clean hospital
- We will be welcoming and caring
- We will be well organised
- We will give the best possible treatment
- We will listen to you and tell you what is going on

We are taking stock and consulting extensively with both patients and staff whether these are the correct priorities.

*For further information contact Siobhan Harrington, Director of Primary Care 020 7288 5440.*

## **4. Day Treatment Centre – update**

The building work on the day treatment centre continues and it is anticipated that the first patients will be treated in the centre in Spring 2008. The operational planning for the new unit continues apace, with the clinical teams having regular tours of the new unit and identifying the opportunities the new centre offers to change the patient pathways.

A number of new key appointments have been made to the day treatment centre team. Dr Catherine Shaw, consultant anaesthetist has taken on the role of clinical lead for the day treatment centre.

Jennifer Johnson, lead nurse and deputy matron, joined the Whittington from North West London Cardiac Network. Jennifer will lead the project and also take over management of the current day surgery and endoscopy teams prior to moving to the day treatment centre.

*For further information contact Gethin Hughes, General Manager for Surgery on 0207 288 3636*

## **5. Mary Seacole ward opened**

The Mary Seacole ward (medical assessment unit) opened on Friday 26 October. The ward was officially opened by Professor Elizabeth Anionwu, a professor of nursing and former head of the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice.

Mary Seacole was a pioneering nurse, funding her own journey to the Crimea to aid wounded soldiers. Born in 1805 to a Jamaican mother and a Scottish soldier, Mary was undaunted by her mixed race, overcoming prejudice throughout her life. She died in 1881 and her reputation has since been compared with that of Florence Nightingale.

The opening of the ward coincided with Black History month celebrations and attracted good media coverage.

*For further information contact Julie Teahan, Matron Acute Medicine 020 7288 3410.*

## **6. Update on actions following Dispatches programme 23 July 2007**

Following the issues raised in the Dispatches programme on 23 July an exception report was made to the Strategic Health Authority and presented to the last Board meeting. It was agreed that the associated action plan would be monitored by the Board. Please find detailed below and update of progress against the action plan.

### **Communications**

***Action: The Whittington Hospital will in future brief both the relationship manager within the Provider Agency and the communications department at NHS London on all relevant issues.***

Progress: Since the programme any major press issues have been reported to the communications department at NHS London and the relationship manager at NHS London.

### **Issues raised by the programme**

#### ***Action: Staffing***

***In the light of increased activity within the maternity service, the Trust commissioned a Birthrate Plus study of its midwifery workforce at the end of 2006. In anticipation of the outcome of the study 10wte new midwife posts were established in September 2006. Following the completion of the Birthrate Plus study in May 2007, in July 2007 the Trust agreed to an increase in the establishment by 14wte midwives, eight of***

***which will work on the postnatal wards. These posts are expected to be recruited to by October 2007.***

Progress: We are actively recruiting midwives. We have recruited 14 midwives in the last month and have eight vacant posts due to retirement, promotion and resignation, which is well below national vacancy for maternity.

***Action: Patient Communication***

***A leaflet is now being prepared to inform women what to expect following a caesarean section, including intravenous infusions, and mobilisation, and information about babies whose airways take longer to clear after birth. The leaflet will be prepared by September.***

***The programme will be discussed with all staff and good communication practice will be reinforced.***

Progress: A leaflet on 'Elective caesarean section' is in place, which is attached. A leaflet for emergency section is out to print.

The programme was discussed with the multi-disciplinary team and communication is being addressed unit wide as part of staff appraisal process.

**Reputation**

***Action: The hospital will continue to promote its women and children's services and will monitor the impact on referral rates.***

Progress: The Whittington Hospital ran an open day and maternity services had a stand promoting the maternity services with tours of the maternity unit. This was well received. The maternity service is launching the Breastfeeding policy on 22 November 2007 in partnership with North Middlesex Hospital, Barnet and Chase Hospital and Haringey PCT. Our referral rate continues to rise, by six percent from last year, and the monthly figures do not indicate a drop in referrals.

*For further information contact Deborah Goodhart, Head of Communications on 020 7288 5983.*

**7. Whittington to provide anticoagulant community service for Barnet PCT**

The Whittington has been successful in its bid to Barnet PCT to deliver the anti-coagulant service based Edgware Community Hospital and Finchley memorial hospital from January 2008.

*For further information contact Matthew Boazman, General Manager for Medicine, 020 7288 3506*

**8. Building for Babies appeal**

The appeal is going extremely well with over £300,000 raised since May 2006. The Highgate Fun Run on 30 September was a great success; it attracted over 250 runners and raised around £7,000.

**Forthcoming events:**

- We are looking for volunteers for a collection at the Arsenal football stadium on Saturday 24 November.
- Monday 3 December - Christmas concert at Lauderdale House
- Tuesday 4 December Tuesday 4 December - Cultivation Concert Whittington Atrium with Jazz/World Music Sextet performing "Little Gidding - A place in and out of time"
- If you are up for the challenge of taking part in the London Marathon on 13 April 2008, please contact the fundraising office.

*For further information contact Deborah Goodhart, Head of Communications on 020 7288 5983.*