

ITEM: 08/115

DOC: 2

Meeting: Trust Board Part 1
Date: 16 July 2008

Title: Chief Executive's Report

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

Action:

Report from: David Sloman, Chief Executive

Sponsor: Not Applicable

Financial Validation

Lead: Director of Finance

Name of finance officer
Not Applicable

Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance

Lead: All directors

Reference:

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

Evidence for self-certification under the Monitor compliance regime

Lead: All directors

Compliance framework reference:

Not Applicable

1. NHS NEXT STAGE REVIEW

The national launch of the NHS Next Stage Review final report took place on Monday 30th June. This is an important document, setting out the shape of the NHS for the next 10 years and shifting the focus from extra investment in quantity of care towards an emphasis on the quality of care that patients receive. The executive summary document has been forward to all board members with their board papers.

Key highlights of the next stage review include:

- Measuring quality right across the service and for the first time making that information available to staff and to the public.
- Focusing on the whole patient experience, with an emphasis on the care pathway and the team rather than on the isolated intervention and the individual clinician.
- Freeing up the local NHS staff to use their expertise to develop services and giving front-line staff more incentives to innovate.
- A new right to the latest drugs approved by NICE, and the speeding up of the process of assessing new drugs and treatments. Every patient will be able to receive drugs and treatments approved by NICE where the doctor recommends them, ending the drugs lottery.
- The fifteen million patients with a long-term condition will have their own personal care plans agreed between the patient and doctor, setting out their treatments and giving them advice on how to stay healthy. 5000 patients with complex conditions will pilot new personal budgets.
- Transforming our concept of health so that there is far more focus on prevention. The “know your numbers” campaign will help patients avoid lifestyle diseases and save lives. Vascular checks will be available for everyone aged between 40 and 74 and there will be faster access to quit smoking clinics and psychological therapy.
- There will be an emphasis on faster and more convenient diagnosis. Patients will be able to have blood tests, scans and other checks at health centres rather than having to go to hospital for repeated visits.
- Younger nurses will be given more time to do their training with senior nurses, raising up standards of care on the ward.

Working with NHS London, PCTs will be responsible for leading the implementation of both the Next Stage Review and the Healthcare for London strategy. Internally the Trust will undertake a more detailed analysis of the Next Stage Review for fuller discussion at a future board seminar.

For further information please contact Fiona Elliot, Deputy Director of Strategy and Performance on extension 3721.

2. ALAN BROOKING FELLOWSHIP

The Whittington has been awarded an Alan Brooking fellowship to visit the USA in September. This will provide an opportunity to explore alternative models of care in hospital and polyclinic settings, drawing on US experience. The timing of the visit fits well with the work within the local health economy to take forward the Healthcare for London strategy and the trust's own programme of work to improve the patient experience.

For further information please contact Siobhan Harrington, Director of Primary Care, on extension 5854.

3. HEALTHCARE COMMISSION CORE STANDARDS INSPECTION

A team of assessors from the Healthcare Commission will be visiting the Whittington on Monday 14 July, to assess a perceived risk of undeclared non-compliance against five of the core standards for 2007/2008:

- C1a – incident reporting and learning
- C4a – clinical waste
- C14a – accessible complaints procedure
- C15b – food: individual needs
- C20b – privacy and confidentiality

The inspection is aimed at gaining an understanding of the documentary evidence underlying the Board's decision at the time of making the declaration, and the assessors will wish to see evidence of the assurance of compliance. They are not, therefore, seeking evidence of compliance per se.

Initial feedback will be given at the end of the day, and a verbal update on the visit will be provided at the Board meeting. The Trust can expect to receive the final conclusions from the visit around 8 October 2008.

For further information please contact Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing & Clinical Development, on extension 3589.