

MEETING:

Trust Board 17 September 2008

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. Primary Care Trusts single acute commissioning function

World class commissioning is an essential element of the next stage review of NHS system reform and PCT functions are being revised to enable this change in function. To deliver the changes required to implement Healthcare for London, arrangements are being made for acute services commissioning to be changed. In north central London local PCTs will continue to operate as statutory organisation, however a separate agency will undertake acute commissioning on their behalf. The agency will be chaired by one of the PCT chairs and led by an officer of status equivalent to Chief Executive. It is intended to appoint the lead officer by November and to have a team in place by January. PCTs will delegate accountability for agreeing contracts, performance and expenditure to the head of the agency.

This sector level arrangement will be complemented by an NHS London 'expert support and shared services hub' which will work on functions such as capacity planning and care pathway design for specialised services. This function will also provide health economics advice. NHS London has recently established a 'Commissioning Support Service' for London PCTs: the relationship between these agencies is yet to be described.

Issues that may arise from this change include:

Fracturing of well developed commissioning relationships

Loss of understanding by commissioners of Trusts as organisations, their services and contract arrangements

Delays in decision making due initially to inexperience and long lines of Governance

The Board will continue to be informed of this development as it progresses through the year.

For further information contact Fiona Elliott, Director of Planning and Performance, 020 72883721.

2. Official opening and annual public meeting

Now that all the sections of the new building are complete it has been decided to hold the official opening of the new Whittington Hospital on Wednesday 1 October 2008 followed by the annual general meeting.

The opening will be undertaken by the governors at 4.30pm, this will be followed by tea and public tours at 5.00pm with the annual public meeting at 6.00pm

As well as stakeholders and other guests all foundation trust members have been invited to see the new premises, through guided tours; meet the elected governors and have an opportunity talk to each other.

Following the statutory presentations at the annual public meeting there will be the presentation of the staff achievement awards by foundation trust governors and Jeremy Corbyn MP.

For further information contact Deborah Goodhart, Head of Communications 020 72885983.

3. NHS Constitution

To coincide with the 60th anniversary of the NHS, a consultation on the NHS Constitution was launched in July by the Department of Health and runs until 17 October 2008 when all responses need to be received.

It is important for the Whittington to submit a response. Once finalised there will be implications for the Trust in terms of aligning the strategy and policies of the organisation. The document is also of value in terms of understanding patient and public expectations of the NHS.

Staff have been informed via the Link and an all staff email will be sent out, leaflets are available to the public. Find out more on <http://dh.go.uk>. The Whittington's response will be taken to the next Trust Board meeting.

For further information contact Siobhan Harrington, Director of Primary Care 020 7288 5854.

4. The Healthcare Commission's annual health check

The results of the 2007/08 annual health check will be published on 16 October 2008. The annual health check is the most important of the Healthcare Commission's activities to drive improvements in healthcare for patients. It involves assessing and rating the performance of each NHS trust in England during the financial year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

For further information contact Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing and Clinical Development 020 7288 3588.

5. Nursing Times Awards 2008

The Whittington has been short listed in a number of categories for the prestigious Nursing Times Awards.

Deborah Wheeler Director of Nursing and Clinical Development has been shortlisted for the Chief Nursing Officer's award; Deborah and her visible leadership team have also been short listed in the infection control nursing section and midwife and Hazel Cathcart and her team have been short listed in improving maternity services section for their work with HMP Holloway.

The winners will then be announced at an awards evening held on Wednesday 12 November 2008 at The London Hilton, Park Lane.

For further information contact Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing and Clinical Development 020 7288 3588.

6. Single sex accommodation

In 2007, the Chief Nursing Officer published “Privacy and Dignity – a report into mixed sex accommodation in hospitals”, outlining the improvements that needed to be made in the NHS to ensure full compliance with the standards on the provision of single sex accommodation. When the original standards for single sex accommodation were published, as part of the 1992 Patients’ Charter, some areas were exempt from reporting on compliance, namely intensive care units and high dependency areas. Since 2007, that exemption has been lifted, and all areas are now expected to report compliance with the standards.

Earlier this year, Trish Morris-Thompson, Chief Nurse for NHS London, wrote to all acute trusts requiring them to advise their trust boards of all breaches in the provision of single sex accommodation within their organisations.

Daily monitoring is in place at the Whittington Hospital, and senior managers are informed each morning of any areas that are not complying with the single sex accommodation criteria, by the bed management team. There are three areas within the hospital that have at times accommodated male and female patients together over the last two months:

Mary Seacole Ward (acute admissions) – the ward has two five-bed rooms, in addition to its five single rooms. Due to the nature of admissions from the Emergency Department, one of the five-bed rooms is regularly occupied by both male and female patients. Patients are on the ward for approximately 24 hours, before being transferred to a main ward in the hospital, which complies with the best practice guidance from the DH.

The Coronary Care Unit on Montuschi Ward has six beds and routinely accommodates both male and female patients as required. The beds are in a line, separated by curtains, all facing the same way towards the nurses’ station, which also complies with best practice guidance.

Nightingale Ward has three four-bed rooms, one of which is used to nurse respiratory patients requiring high dependency care. There have therefore been a number of times over the past two months when both male and female patients have been nursed in this area. Patients may remain in this area for longer than 24 hours, depending on their clinical condition, and are moved to one of the other rooms when they no longer require close observation nursing care.

There will be a report to every future trust board meeting outlining breaches in compliance with the single sex accommodation guidelines, as required by NHS London.

For further information contact Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing and Clinical Development 020 7288 3588.