

Whittington Health Trust Board

27 February 2013

Title:		Chief Executive's Report to the Board					
Agenda item:		13/023		Paper		2	
Action requested:		<i>For discussion</i>					
Executive Summary:		<p>The report updates the Board with policy changes that will affect the organisation and key issues facing the Trust.</p> <p>Headlines for February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry • Reforms to long term social care costs • Commissioner letter of support for FT • SHA Board to Board for FT assurance • Stakeholder engagement on estates strategy • £750,000 for maternity services • Ambulatory Care Centre development • Supplies of beef products to NHS providers 					
Summary of recommendations:		<p>The Board is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the report 					
Fit with WH strategy:		<p>This report provides an update on key issues that could affect the achievement of the trust strategy.</p>					
Reference to related / other documents:		FT progress report					
Date paper completed:		15 February 2013					
Author name and title:		Dr Yi Mien Koh Chief Executive		Director name and title:		Dr Yi Mien Koh Chief Executive	
Date paper seen by ET	n/a	Equality Impact Assessment complete?	Yes	Risk assessment undertaken?	Yes	Legal advice received?	N/A



Chief Executive's Report to the Board

26 February 2013

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update the board on local, regional and national policy changes that will affect the organisation and sets out the key issues facing the Trust.

2. Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry

The long awaited report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry, widely referred to as "The Francis Report", was published on 6 February. The report made 290 recommendations, focusing on getting basic care right, with improvements being driven by cultural change putting patients first. The most important high level proposals impacting on NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts (FTs) are summarised below:

a) Inspection and regulation

- Single healthcare regulator dealing with corporate governance, financial competence, viability and compliance with patient safety and quality for all trusts
- Creation of a Chief Inspector for hospitals to be appointed by CQC in autumn 2013
- Clearer and legal consequences for failure including a power for CQC to remove trust boards on the basis of poor quality care
- Poor scores on Friends and Family Test resulting in immediate CQC inspection
- National Medical Director Sir Bruce Keogh to conduct an immediate investigation into care at hospitals with the highest mortality rates.

b) Employee duties

- Statutory duty of candour, and fit and proper persons test for directors
- Requirements on FTs to provide adequate training for directors
- Provision of misleading information to regulators to be a criminal offence;
- Regulation of healthcare assistants
- Nurses to be hired and promoted on the basis of compassion.

c) Authorisation

- Transfer of FT authorisation process to CQC with support from the NHS Trust Development Authority to develop quality of care as a pre-condition for authorisation
- Inspection should be strengthened as an element of the authorisation process. Trusts applying for FT status should be subject to a 'duty of utmost good faith.'

d) Local accountability

- Proposals for strengthening support for governors, and for strengthening the role of governors and Non Executive Directors including their accountability to the public.

The chief executive of the NHS Sir David Nicholson has written to all NHS CEs asking every individual to read the full report and to make the time to reflect carefully on the findings in the context of the services we deliver and discuss them in a public board meeting. The Secretary of State has also written to chairs asking that internal events are held with staff. The government is expecting to respond to the recommendations next month. We will bring the report for discussion by the Trust Board following the publication of the Department of Health (DH) response.

3. Reforming long term care costs

Following the Dilnot report on future funding of social care costs, the government announced on 11 February 2013 a number of changes:

- the state to pay for individual care costs over a cap of £75,000
- A new means test threshold of £123,000 to replace the current £23,000 – the maximum point at which people can be considered for state help
- Free care will be given to those who turn 18 with eligible care needs.

The proposals need legislative changes and will not take effect until 2017.

4. Commissioner letter of support for FT

As part of the FT application process, the Trust requires a letter of support from commissioners to accompany the application. Caroline Taylor, Chief Executive of NHS North Central London (NCL), wrote to me on 7 February 2013 on behalf of NCL PCTs and Clinical Commissioning Groups, to give this support. Her letter is attached to this report (attachment 1).

5. SHA Board to Board for FT assurance

As part of NHS London's assurance and approvals process for aspirant FTs, the SHA board has invited the Trust Board to a Board to Board meeting on 21 February 2013. The purpose of the meeting is to gather evidence to enable the SHA to form a judgement about our FT application and to give the board the opportunity to demonstrate the leadership needed to form an FT. We can expect to hear of the outcome of the meeting in week commencing 25 February 2013.

6. Stakeholder engagement on estates strategy

The estates strategy attracted widespread media interest, with significant concerns expressed by MPs and other local stakeholder groups about the proposed changes to Whittington Health estates and workforce over the next five years. The Board acknowledged that it has misjudged its communication with major stakeholders and is now embarking on a proactive engagement programme. Actions to date include meeting with MPs and local councillors, engaging with the media to explain our strategy, attending Overview and Scrutiny Committees and public meetings to listen and to respond to concerns.

As chief executive, I have also written to staff and have held a series of staff meetings to listen and to answer questions on the issues. These events are on top of the usual communication channels. Going forward, the executive team will need to improve our engagement with staff. Visible leadership and open communication are crucial at times of significant change.

7. £750,000 for maternity services

The Trust has been awarded £750 000 by DH to improve the physical environment of our maternity unit. The grant is the largest awarded to a trust in London and recognises the poor state of our facilities. Taking into account recent survey findings, we aim to refurbish the antenatal ward and create en-suite single rooms for expectant mothers and their partners. We will also modernise facilities for women who have given birth and provide six transitional care baby rooms for premature babies and their mothers.

This investment marks the first phase of Whittington Health's five year plan to improve the facilities for women and children on the hospital site. It makes a small contribution to the over £10m urgently needed for a significant upgrade of the maternity unit that will enable the hospital to attract more expectant mothers and increasing the number of births.

8. Ambulatory Care Centre development

The design work for the new Ambulatory Care Centre is near completion. Building on our Design Council award experience of working with TILT Design to prototype the new outpatient pharmacy, the company is helping us to design the new Ambulatory Care Centre.

Led by Dr Helen Taylor, Chief Pharmacist, the project has engaged clinical staff in reviewing work flows and space utilisation. The project has created tremendous interests and enthusiasm among staff who are looking forward to the new centre opening in October 2013. Further prototyping sessions are taking place this week. TILT will present the final designs to the Trust on 1 March at 2.30pm in the Whittington Education Centre.

The Board will be pleased to hear that Helen, who also led the outpatient pharmacy project, has been invited by the Design Council to lead a seminar on the subject at the NHS Innovations Expo next month.

9. Supplies of beef products to NHS providers

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is currently investigating how a number of beef products came to contain horsemeat. The FSA has said that unless there is advice to avoid a specific product, there is no reason to believe that any processed beef products currently on sale are unsafe.

All NHS providers have been asked by DH to ensure they have rigorous procurement procedures in place with reputable food suppliers. These should include suitable assurance on sampling and checking regimes of suppliers with regards to authenticity.

The Trust is in the process of completing a robust traceability exercise. I am able to assure the board that

- looking back over the past six months as a reference period, the traceability information for all of our raw beef supply (which provides the base ingredient used by the Trust to cook meals) confirms no contamination with horsemeat
- We are also seeking traceability insight from our multi cultural, puree and Kosher suppliers to be confident their supplies have not been contaminated by horsemeat
- We are actively progressing updated traceability detail with our cooked sliced beef and cooked beef pie manufacturers. Again, to date, the information obtained supports a supply chain which advises there has been no contamination with horsemeat

- None of our suppliers take meat from any of FSA named businesses (as of 14th February) that have been identified as supplying beef meat / beef meat products with traces of horse meat.

10. New Appointments

I am pleased to announce two new appointments starting this month.

- Lee Martin, Deputy COO and Director of Operations for the Surgery, Cancer and Diagnostics Division joined the Trust on 4 February 2013
- Guy Dentith, Head of Finance, replaces Jim Davies as Deputy Director of Finance on 18 February 2013.

I would like to thank Jim, who is now the Deputy DoF at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS FT, for his contribution to the Trust over the past four years and wish him well in his new role.

**DR YI MIEN KOH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

15 February 2013