

Whittington Health Trust Board

4 June 2014

Title:		Chief Executive's Report to the Board							
Agenda item:						Paper		3	
Action requested:		<i>For discussion and information</i>							
Executive Summary:		<p>Headlines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nurse staffing/recruitment 2. Emergency Department (ED) sustains performance 3. Referral to treatment waiting times - April results 4. Infection control 5. EPR update 6. Financial result for Month 1 7. Update on CEO and medical director recruitment 8. President-elect of the RCP Professor Jane Dacre steps down 9. Diabetes team commended at BMJ Awards 10. Engagement on proposals to improve specialist cancer and cardiovascular services 11. NHS Trusts get another chance to apply for £500 million of tech fund cash 							
Summary of recommendations:		The Board is recommended to discuss the report.							
Fit with WH strategy:		This report provides an update on key issues that could affect the Whittington Health strategy.							
Reference to related / other documents:		Financial and performance reports.							
Reference to areas of risk and corporate risks on the Board Assurance Framework:									
Date paper completed:		28 May 2014							
Author name and title:		Simon Pleydell, Chief Executive			Director name and title:		Simon Pleydell, Chief Executive		
Date paper seen by EC	n/a	Equality Impact Assessment complete?	n/a	Quality Impact Assessment complete?	n/a	Financial Impact Assessment complete?	n/a		



Chief Executive's Report to the Board

4 June 2014

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

Quality

1. Nurse staffing/recruitment

A major recruitment campaign is continuing across the Trust to reduce our reliance on agency nurses. In the last few weeks, an additional 53 nurses have been recruited following recruitment events in Glasgow and Dublin in April. A series of further recruitment events are planned over the next seven months.

In Hard Truths: The journey to putting patients first, which is part of the Government's response to the Francis Report, a commitment was made to publish nurse staffing levels for wards by the end of June. In June we will be publishing information about nurses, midwives and care staff deployed, compared to what was planned for each shift for each ward. The Board will also see a monthly report on planned and actual ward staffing levels and this will be published on our website and uploaded onto NHS Choices.

Performance

2. Emergency Department (ED) sustains performance

Congratulations to our Emergency Department which has performed consistently well over recent weeks and is amongst the top performing departments in London. April was the seventh consecutive month the department met the target of seeing 95 per cent of all patients within four hours (96.31 per cent). For the first two weeks in May, we also exceeded the target.

Achieving 95 per cent, alongside other clinical quality indicators, is testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone including specialty teams, ward staff and support functions. A great deal of improvement work has been carried out in recent months and we're now seeing the impact of this with more patients in ED receiving high-quality timely care.

3. Referral to treatment waiting times - April results

We met the key national targets for consultant-led referral to treatment (RTT) waiting times for April with 90 per cent of admitted patients and 95 per cent of non-admitted patients starting treatment within 18 weeks.

4. Infection control

MRSA bacteraemia: In line with most other London Trusts, our objective this year (2014/15) is for zero Trust attributable cases. So far this year there have been no MRSA bacteraemias.

Clostridium difficile (C diff): The objective for the year is for no more than 19 Trust attributable cases. So far there have been three cases. In each case, a short root cause analysis (RCA) is performed and, so far, there does not appear to be any connection between cases.

5. EPR update

Following the recent major upgrade to the Electronic Patient Record (EPR) data warehouse, the Trust has successfully submitted its Commissioning Data Set (CDS) for Admitted Care, Outpatients and Emergency Department for September 2013 to 31 March 2014. This allows commissioners to see their contracted activity treated at The Whittington Hospital and will

enable the Trust to move off the current block contract to Payment By Results. We are now working to validate the data for the incomplete RTT pathway, and expect to report this later in the summer.

Finance

6. Financial result for Month 1

We recognised that we are facing a financial challenge for 2014/15 and our first set of results reflects this. The financial position for the first month of the new financial year (April) is disappointing and we need to take immediate action to tighten control of our finances.

We have reported a £600k deficit against a planned £350k deficit for April. The shortfall reflects a failure to reduce spend on agency staff and means we are falling short of our savings targets (reducing agency is a key constituent of this). It is important for the organisation to get an early grip on finances - we do not have reserves to cushion us this year. Meetings to discuss month one results have already taken place with senior managers to agree action plans to return our position to within budget.

Other key updates

7. Update on CEO and medical director recruitment

We have begun the recruitment process for a new permanent chief executive. Odgers Berndtson have been appointed to manage the recruitment and the role has been advertised on their website and in the HSJ online. The closing date for applications is 9am on Friday 13 June. The assessment process is expected to take place at the end of June/early July. The new chief executive will play an important role in the recruitment of other substantive staff to the Board.

Martin Kuper, medical director, has now left the Trust to take up his new role as medical director at the Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. We have agreed with the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA) not to make a substantive appointment to the role of medical director while the current appointment process for the new chief executive is under way. We have therefore asked Dr Richard Jennings, consultant in infectious diseases and acute medicine, to assume this role for up to a year. This will allow the new chief executive to make arrangements for a substantive appointment in due course. I am delighted that Richard has agreed to take up this role at a very important time for the Trust. Richard took up this role from Monday 2 June. I look forward to working with him closely in the forthcoming months.

8. President-elect of the RCP Professor Jane Dacre steps down

Professor Jane Dacre, non-executive director and consultant physician and rheumatologist, will step down from the Board from 1 July following her election as president of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). Jane is the University College London (UCL) nominated non-executive director for Whittington Health. The chair has met with UCL to discuss her successor.

9. Diabetes team commended at BMJ Awards

Congratulations to our diabetes team on their success in this year's prestigious BMJ Awards. At the awards ceremony in May, they received a special commendation for work with "potentially global impact" in the category of 'diabetes team of the year'. Commendations were only given to five other teams across all of the 12 categories. The BMJ received around

450 award applications with only five teams, including Whittington Health, making it through to the final shortlist for diabetes team of the year.

10. Engagement on proposals to improve specialist cancer and cardiovascular services

NHS England have launched their next phase of engagement on proposals to improve specialist cancer and cardiovascular services in North and East London and West Essex. The proposals, if implemented, could help save more than 1,000 lives by creating high volume centres of excellence for the delivery of specialist services for five types of rare or complex cancer and cardiovascular disease. Under proposals, St Bartholomew's Hospital would become the centre for specialist treatment of heart disease, and University College Hospital, working within a system of hospitals including The Royal London, St Bartholomew's, The Royal Free and Queen's Hospital in Romford would become a centre for the specialist treatment of some types of cancer. This engagement phase will run for five weeks and concludes on Friday 27 June 2014.

11. NHS Trusts get another chance to apply for £500 million of tech fund cash

The second wave of the £500 million 'Integrated Digital Care Fund' (formerly the 'Safer Hospitals, Safer Wards Technology Fund') is open to applications. NHS Trusts can apply for part of £240 million of funding to digitise and integrate patient information across the health and care sector, driving improvements in patient care. It builds on the first wave of £260 million of Department of Health capital funding announced by NHS England last July to support NHS Trusts to digitise records and develop electronic systems for prescribing medicines quicker and more accurately.