

**ITEM: 2**

**MEETING:**  
Trust Board  
18 January 2006

**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**



## 1. Performance targets

Usually, the key performance targets take effect from the end of the financial year. This year a number of important access targets applied from 31 December.

I am delighted to report that the Whittington achieved all of these:

<b>ED 4 hour</b>	<b>98% for the Quarter</b>	<b>✓ achieved</b>
<b>Surgery</b>	<b>6 month maximum</b>	<b>✓ achieved</b>
<b>Outpatients</b>	<b>13 week maximum</b>	<b>✓ achieved</b>

Waiting times for patients have reduced significantly and currently 96% patients are treated surgically within 3 months of the decision to operate.

## 2. The Highgate Hill Treatment Centre

The new private ward at the Whittington, formerly Trevor Ward and now called the Highgate Hill Treatment Centre, opened to patients during December. To date, Urology, Gynaecology and General Surgical patients have been cared for on the unit. The ward has had minor works undertaken to upgrade the environment and has been furnished appropriately. Accreditation visits by all the main insurance bodies and visits by their representatives are taking place in early January.

During January, marketing information about the unit will be sent to all local GPs and relevant insurance companies, as well as consultants who have expressed an interest. This will include an invitation to an open evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Dedicated internet pages, attached to the Whittington website, will also be launched.

*For more information contact Anne Gibbs, Divisional Manager – Women's and Children, on 020 7288 5744.*

## 3. Improving our environment

The new Patient Admission Unit opened in December. This is a designated area located within the operating theatre suite where patients come on their day of their surgery to be greeted, change and meet their anaesthetist and operating surgeon. It provides an improved service to patients and minimises their exposure to infection by reducing their length of stay at the hospital. The unit also ensures we make best use of the theatre resource as lists are now running more efficiently.

Redevelopment works on Thorogood ward were also completed in December. The ward has been reduced to 14 beds, the optimum number to maintain the ward as a clean orthopaedic environment for the current workload. In parallel further redevelopment work on Victoria and Coyle wards has increased the capacity of each ward to 36 beds each. An eight bedded Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU) is now being created within Victoria Ward

which will fast-track patients from ED and link closely with the new emergency theatre service. The SAU will be open by the end of January.

*For more information contact Shaun Stacey, Divisional Manager – Surgery, on 020 7288 5742.*

#### **4. New theatre system**

The Whittington has been selected for an implementation slot for a new theatre system as part of the national programme for IT. The new system is due to go live in September '06 and will provide comprehensive information on patient activity through theatres.

#### **5. Choose and Book**

The Whittington has now made over 1,000 bookings via Choose and Book in the Haringey local health community. Consultants are now accepting bookings on-line and by the end of January 85% of the hospital's services will be bookable via the system.

GP take-up of Choose and Book has been variable across the locality. To help with this, Chris Giles, our Choose and Book project manager, has been seconded to Islington PCT specifically to work with GP practices on implementing the system. A number of large practices have now gone live and the PCT has undertaken an aggressive roll-out strategy to ensure all practices are making all referrals via Choose and Book by the summer.

*For more information contact Chris Giles, Project Manager – Choose and Book, on 020 7288 5124.*

#### **6. Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts assessment**

The Whittington will be assessed against Level 2 of the CNST general risk management standards on 16 and 17 January. The assessment will cover a range of clinical risk issues, including consent to treatment, use of medical devices, staff training programmes, infection control and health records. The assessor will interview a range of staff and examine a broad range of policies and procedures. They will then score the Trust against the CNST standards.

The Trust successfully completed an assessment against Level 1 of the general standards in 2004 and against level 2 of the maternity standards in 2005. Achieving Level 2 general will give us an additional £78k discount on our annual risk management premium. It will also enable us to apply for assessed against Level 3 for the maternity standards in 2006/7.

*For more information contact Deborah Clatworthy, Acting Assistant Director of Nursing (Clinical Governance & Risk), on x5469.*

## **7. Agenda for Change**

The vast majority of staff have now been assimilated to new bandings under *Agenda For Change* and have *Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF)* outlines assigned to their posts. This provides an opportunity to check they have the skills needed to achieve their roles and/or to identify their development needs. This work has been achieved by working in partnership with trade union representatives at the Trust. The next phase will be to ensure that the benefits to service delivery are realised from these changes and that the Trust gains value for money from its additional investment.

*For more information contact Ruth Pattison, Project Manager- Human Resources Directorate on 020 7288 3698.*