

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BRIEFING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 17 JANUARY 2018

1. Integrated Performance Report

The Integrated Performance Report is attached at Appendix 1. Each Director will highlight the key issues for the Board of Directors to note/consider.

2. Operational Update and NHS England Guidance

I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work over the festive period which has been very busy both in our hospitals and community services. I know many people have gone above and beyond to ensure our patients received the care they needed as quickly as possible.

The Board will be aware of the recent media coverage that NHS England has issued guidance about Trusts having the option to defer all non-urgent procedures and outpatient appointments until 1 February if it enables capacity or staff to be freed up to support emergency care. The communication also mentions that Trusts should not be penalised for placing patients in mixed sex accommodation.

The latest guidance has been considered by the Trust Executive Group who noted that, whilst we have seen an increase in emergency patients over the last few weeks, our winter plans include doing everything possible to carry out as much planned care as we can. This is primarily to ensure there is limited disruption to patients but also so we do not prolong the pressure on staff and facilities into February and March when we have to catch up on postponed operations/appointments. The Trust is reviewing its position several times a day and based on this we have decided NOT to routinely cancel all non-urgent operations or appointments at this time. We are asking patients who have a planned appointment or operation to attend as planned unless we contact them direct. Our decision making in terms of cancelling operations or appointments will be based on clinical urgency and safety.

The Board will be aware that we have worked very hard to eliminate mixed sex accommodation over a number of years and so we do not intend to consider placing patients in mixed sex accommodation during this busy period unless it is a matter of clinical safety for that patient at that time. The decision to place a patient in mixed sex accommodation will only be sanctioned after careful consideration and approval by a member of the Trust Executive Group.

3. Honours Recognition – Professor Hilary Chapman

I am delighted to confirm that Professor Hilary Chapman, Chief Nurse, has been made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's New Year Honours (2018). This recognises Hilary's services to the nursing profession since she qualified as a registered nurse over 32 years ago.

Hilary is one of the country's most prominent Chief Nurses, and has made major contributions to health policy, healthcare delivery and system reform, most notably co-leading on the development of the Safer Nursing Care Toolkit. The toolkit is now used widely in hospitals throughout the UK and helps determine safe nurse staffing levels on acute wards depending on how sick or dependent patients are.

4. Home Office Letter – EU Citizens Living in the UK

We are pleased to note the contents of a letter recently published by the Home Office, circulated to NHS Trusts, which confirms that EU citizens living lawfully here before the UK's exit from the EU will be able to stay. This will of course give our EU staff the assurance and peace of mind that I know they have needed for some time. NHS colleagues and patients, rely heavily on their knowledge, skills and compassion which has made a huge positive impact on healthcare delivery.

A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix 2.

5. Workforce Race Equality – National Report

NHSE's latest report on race equality in the health service, which assesses how well trusts are performing against the new Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES), indicates progress in the number BME nurses achieving higher pay bands. Despite this improvement, it reports that BME nurses and midwives continue to be "seriously under-represented" in more senior roles at band 6 and above. The report comes as Yvonne Coghill, NHSE's WRES Director, told independent health management magazine NHE that the CQC is helping to shine the light on this issue and ensure organisations are aware of WRES needs.

The Trust will use this information to progress work on the WRES standards supported by the STH WRES Working Group.

6. South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System (ACS) Update

The November minutes of the ACS Collaborative Partnership Board can be found at: <https://smybndccqs.nhs.uk/what-we-do/stp>.

Hospital Services Review

During the last few months of 2017, the Hospital Services Review has conducted 15 Clinical Working Groups (which are made up of clinicians from each service within each of the hospitals) and five public engagement events (in addition to an online survey, work with seldom heard groups and staff drop-in sessions in Trusts). Work is now underway to review the insight and identify themes that have started to emerge from the engagement activity.

Public and staff engagement activity continues to take place in January and will continue to be incorporated into the work of the review team.

The team will be developing proposed options in January, modelling them in February and running them against the evaluation criteria (to which the public have previously contributed) in early March. Equality Impact Assessments will be developed alongside each proposed model. A number of further events will take place in early March to look at all the proposed options and gather public opinion on these before the final preferred proposed options are put forward in the final review report in April.

7. Working Together Partnership Vanguard Newsletter

The link to the latest Working Together Partnership newsletter can be found at <http://workingtogethernhs.co.uk/newsletters/>

The first Committees in Common meeting took place on 4 December 2017. Whilst the Committees in Common meeting remains a private meeting, it has been agreed, wherever possible, that a briefing from the meeting will be reported in public. This is the first of those briefings.

Pathology

In September 2017 NHS Improvement (NHSI) published requirements around the development of 29 pathology networks across the NHS. They have looked into pathology services across the UK and believe that implementing the 29 networks will provide high quality, rapid and comprehensive diagnostic services for patients, which are delivered in the most efficient manner; and that this will facilitate the introduction of, and widest access to, new investigations and diagnostic systems, and improve future training and career development for scientific and technical staff.

All hospitals have been asked to look at the way services are delivered with this in mind to ensure they are safe and sustainable. Reference Groups for blood sciences, microbiology and cellular pathology have been established to explore how best a South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw network would work in a hub and spoke model.

Once the validation of the data, and reference group conversations, are complete the options will be considered by each Trust to ensure that the recommendations are supported by all of the partner organisations.

There is already a strong partnership across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Trusts, and the Pathology Steering Group, which is attended by Clinical Directors and Service Managers, has been in place for some time. The Group is Chaired by Richard Parker (CEO - Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals FT) with Medical Director Sponsorship from David Throssell (Medical Director – Sheffield Teaching Hospitals FT).

National Life Sciences Industrial Strategy

On 5 December 2017 the national Life Sciences Industrial Strategy was published with up to £3.5bn allocated by the government. Work is taking place to look into the opportunity for the ACS to support this agenda in relation to advanced manufacturing, digital, and health and care technologies.

8. CQC Local System Review of Health and Social Care in Sheffield

The CQC have been commissioned by the Secretaries of State for Health and for Communities and Local Government to undertake local system reviews. The Trust has recently received notification that Sheffield will be reviewed in during the week commencing 5 March 2018.

A CQC led briefing session has been held to provide local system leaders with information about the range and nature of the local system review and the methodology. This was also an opportunity to meet the review team and ask questions about the process. The Medical Director attended this briefing session on the 12 January 2018 and a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

9. NHS Providers Summary of Board Papers

Attached at Appendix 3 is a summary of Health Education England (HEE) and Care Quality Commission's (CQC) most recent board meetings.

December's summary includes updates on HEE's expansion of nursing associate trainees and the national framework for allied health professions, as well the progress made by CQC's hospitals inspection regime and the findings of its interim report on local system reviews.

Sir Andrew Cash OBE
Chief Executive
15 January 2018