

# Chairman's bulletin

June 2017

Dear member,

I am pleased to update you after our latest board of directors' meeting.

I hope you find this bulletin informative. If you have any comments about the format or content please contact the private office.

## Cyber attack

The NHS recently came under a cyber attack. We have been taking action to deal with the incident and recover from its effects.

Graham Evans, our chief information and technology officer, has been working across this trust and at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that we have taken all the necessary precautions needed. We have been able to minimise the impact and our internal systems have not been infected with the virus. However, due to our external network being shut down because of a protective measure we did have to put business continuity plans in place to maintain services for patients.

## Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

As we are now in a period of purdah until the General Election has been held, any decision making is on our STP footprint (for Durham, Darlington, Tees, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby) is on hold. Chief executive Alan Foster has been speaking to the chief executives of the local authorities in our footprint to brief them and reassure them that we will be re-engaging with them in order to strengthen STP governance arrangements during the summer.

We need to develop a two year plan which will cover the five priorities for the NHS to be delivered in 2017/18. These are:

- Improving A&E performance
- Improving cancer services
- Improve mental health services
- Strengthening access to GP and primary care services
- Having a financial balance across the NHS

## Quality

In her report to the board, director of nursing, patient safety and quality Julie Lane provided an update on how we are continuing to improve quality for patients.

### *Mortality*

The latest HSMR (hospital standardised mortality ratio), which measures the amount of people who actually die compared to the number who might be expected to die in our hospitals, was reported at 104.55, which remains in the 'as expected' range. This has been a huge improvement over this last year.

The latest SHMI (summary hospital level mortality indicator) has decreased to 111.95, which keeps the trust in the 'as expected' range.

## Preventing the spread of infection

In April the trust reported six attributed cases of clostridium difficile infection. The trajectory for this year (2017/18) is 13 cases and we need to do everything we can to improve and to keep these cases to an absolute minimum.

The trust reported no trust attributed cases of MRSA bacteraemia in April.

If you are in the hospitals or in other clinical areas across the trust, you can help by:

- making sure you wash or clean your hands appropriately
- following our bare below the elbows dress code

## Money

We are now in the new financial year. In her update to the board, director of finance Caroline Trevena reported the trust's position in April is £1.5m in deficit which is considerably behind plan. However, action plans need to deliver to rectify the position.

We have a track record of good performance, but the whole system is under pressure.

However, we will work together across the organisation to make sure we can be as financially efficient as possible without compromising quality or patient care.

## Performance

Chief operating officer and deputy chief executive Julie Gillon updated the board on the trust's performance.

Our performance against the emergency care standard was achieved in the month of April, reporting at 97.97% against the target of 95%. This is thanks to the hard work of staff not just in A&E but across the trust.

## Cancer services

The trust has underachieved against the 62 day referral for treatment target, the two week rule and the breast symptomatic two week rule standard.

## NHS staff survey

In her report to the board director of human resources and education Ann Burrell reported the outcomes of the recent staff survey.

A total of 745 surveys were completed – a response rate of 61%, which is a 16% increase on last year and is above the national average.

Out of 32 key findings in the report, the trust rated better than average in 20 of them and average in a further five.

The survey gives us very important feedback and allows us to recognise areas we are performing well in and areas where improvements are needed. It is very important that these results are shared widely with staff and the trust is developing innovative ways of feeding the “we said, we did” back to staff.

## New consultants

The following consultant appointments have been made:

Mr Yogesh Jain – Consultant Breast Surgeon

Mr Ziauddin Khan – Consultant Urologist

## The board papers

The board papers from the last board meeting are posted on our website when the minutes of the previous meeting are approved. If you would like to read the board papers please go to <http://www.nth.nhs.uk/about/board-meetings/>

Board meetings are held in public and you are welcome to attend. To confirm your attendance please contact the private office on 01642 624060.