

# Chairman's bulletin

August 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.

## Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

It has been agreed that our STP (for Durham, Darlington, Tees, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby) will join with Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North East and West Cumbria as one single STP. Work is now under way to appoint a new leader for the combined STP. I will update you when I have more information about this.

## Grenfell Tower fire

In light of the tragic events in the Grenfell Tower fire in London, I'd like to assure you that none of our buildings contain the same cladding material.

A detailed annual review of the trust's buildings was carried out by Cleveland Fire Brigade in February and May. Some minor recommendations were made and these are being implemented.

## Delayed transfers of care

We have received a letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government which sets out the need for local government and the NHS to reduce delayed transfers of care using additional resources given in the March budget.

The additional money is there to achieve three things:

- Meet adult social care needs
- Reduce pressure on the NHS by supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready
- Ensure that the local social care provider market is supported

This further guidance makes it clear that action needs to be taken in order to free up NHS beds in advance of the winter.

## Ambulance response programme

The Secretary of State for Health has accepted Sir Bruce Keogh's recommendations to redesign the ambulance service's operating model.

This will involve:

- Quicker identification of life-threatening conditions using a pre-triage system
- New response times standards which cover every single patient, not just those in immediate need
- A new dispatch model, giving staff more time to identify patients' needs
- A change to the rules around what "stops the clock", so standards can only be met by doing the right thing for the patient

This new operating model will be in use by this winter and will bring significant improvements to patient care.

## Capital programme

Peter Mitchell, director of estates and facilities, updated the board on the trust's capital programme.

The £21million major engineering infrastructure replacement scheme at the University Hospital of North Tees is progressing well and is below budget.

The first phase to upgrade the electrical infrastructure is complete. The second part is the building of a new energy centre. NG Bailey have started building works and expect to complete it by June 2018.

The trust has also built a new 153 space car park on the site of the former Hardwick Health Centre, opposite the North Tees visitor car park. This has increased car parking capacity and is bringing in money which will go back into patient care.

## 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 103.73 (April 2016-March 2017), which remains in the 'as expected' range.

The latest SHMI (summary hospital level mortality indicator) has decreased to 110.29, which keeps the trust in the 'as expected' range.

## Preventing the spread of infection

In June the trust reported four attributed cases of clostridium difficile infection which means we have now hit our trajectory for this year (2017/18), which is 13 cases.

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

If you are in one of our hospitals or in other clinical areas across the trust, you can help by making sure

you wash your hands and following our bare below the elbows policy.

## Money

In her update to the board, director of finance Caroline Trevena reported the trust's position in June is in a deficit of £5.8m, which is £2.3m behind plan.

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 June, reporting at 98.93% against the target of 95%. In the first quarter of the year we also achieved 98.24%. This is thanks to the hard work of staff across the trust.

### *Cancer services*

The trust continues to experience significant pressures and has underachieved against the 62 day referral for treatment target and the two week rule standard for June and the first quarter of the year.

The trust has a cancer standard recovery plan in place to tackle this, focusing on key areas across all tumour specific groups. However, no matter what do, there are many factors affecting these standards, some out of the trust's control.

## HR and education

Ann Burrell, director of human resources and education, updated the board about the trust's workforce.

The trust's staff numbers have reduced slightly, while sickness absence rates have also gone down.

We have maintained green status in many mandatory training topics including fire, dementia and blood transfusion.

Staff friends and family test results for the first quarter of the year reported that 74% of staff would recommend the trust as a place to receive treatment and 64% would recommend it as a place in which to work.

### *Medical trainees*

The service has had a number of visits and surveys including a visit by the University Medical School and Foundation School.

Feedback was described as the most positive visit the school had attended during the reporting cycle, with exceptional feedback from the foundation one and two trainees. This is testament not only the work of tutors but to all staff who have clearly all contributed to helping trainees have a fantastic experience at this trust.

## Junior doctor contract

In the board meeting, medical director Deepak Dwarakanath provided an update about action taken since the start of the new junior doctor contract.

As part of the new contract, consultant Pud Bhaskar was appointed to the role of guardian of safe working hours to act as a 'champion' for safe working hours and be independent of the management structure. He is providing reports every quarter as part of this role.

The systems in the new junior doctor contract are new and will take time to embed. A relatively low number of issues have been raised in comparison to some other organisations and actions are being taken to improve engagement and ensure our junior doctors feel safe to highlight concerns.

Overall there are no major concerns, where issues have been highlighted there is on-going work to address them.

## Volunteers' evening

I was delighted to host this year's volunteers and retired staff members' thank you event at the University Hospital of North Tees.

This is an opportunity for staff to show our appreciation for the countless hours of support freely given by our volunteers.

Many thanks also to those who organised and helped support the event.

## New consultants

The following consultant appointment has been made:

Mr Ishtiaq Ahmed Consultant Upper GI Surgeon

Dr Naveed Altaf - Radiology

## 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.