

Chairman's bulletin

December 2016

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.

Changes to NHS urgent care services

NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has announced that North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust will deliver urgent care services across Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees in alliance with Hartlepool and Stockton Health (the local GP Federation) and the North East Ambulance Service, following a formal bidding process.

This is a very exciting development for the trust and we look forward to working together with partner organisations, the local GP Federation (Hartlepool and Stockton Health) and the North East Ambulance Service, to provide this facility in Stockton and Hartlepool, which will be a huge benefit to all patients.

Services will be aligned in a much closer way, ensuring that patients are seen by the right person in the right place.

This is a big achievement for the trust and I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work.

You can read more at www.nth.nhs.uk/news/changes-nhs-urgent-care-services-announced/

Draft sustainability and transformation plans (STP) published

NHS England has asked NHS organisations to work together on improvement plans for their area, called Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) to tackle three challenges:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of the population,
- Improving the quality of care that is provided,
- Improving the efficiency of NHS services.

Our draft plan is one of 44 such plans being developed across the country, and it identifies four priority areas:

- Preventing ill health and increasing self care
- Health and care in communities and neighbourhoods
- Quality of care in our hospitals – “Better Health Programme”
- Use of technology in health care

I want to reassure you that these are still draft plans and it is an ongoing process. Over the next few months, more work will be done on the plan within NHS organisations, working with local councils and other partners, such as the voluntary sector.

We have also published a copy of the draft plan on the trust's website at www.nth.nhs.uk/news/sustainability-transformation-plan

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 105.29 and remains inside the as expected range where the national mean is 100.

The latest SHMI (summary hospital level mortality indicator) has been released for the period of April 2015 to March 2016, with the value reducing to 113.19 from 117.31 in the previous period.

There remains further work to do, but the trend is heading in the right direction.

Preventing the spread of infection

In October the trust reported a further three trust attributed cases of clostridium difficile infection, bringing the total up to 22 reported this year. This exceeds the very challenging trajectory for the year of 13 cases.

The trust reported no trust attributed cases MRSA bacteraemia in October. However, the trust currently has one case which occurred in September.

If you are in the hospitals or in other clinical areas across the trust you can help us by making sure you wash or clean your hands appropriately.

Our performance

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

Despite being early into the winter and having seen additional pressure on our services and an increase in the number of attendances in accident and emergency, performance against the emergency care standard was achieved in the month of October, reporting at 96.36% against the target of 95%.

The four hour target does not only belong to accident and emergency. The whole trust and health system needs to be working effectively for this target to be achieved.

The trust performance has remained within or above the national and North East average, despite seeing an overall increase in attendances and admissions.

Money

In her update to the board director of finance Caroline Trevena, reported at the end of October we were £714k in surplus, in line with the planned figure agreed with NHS Improvement.

While the trust's cost improvement programme of £7.9m for 2016/17 is on plan, there are some difficult times ahead.

We have done much to achieve the efficiencies required of us over the years, however the longer we are required to make these levels of savings the more challenging they become to achieve.

We need to continue work together to make sure we can be as financially efficient as possible without compromising quality or patient care.

Trust's Scan4Safety team win award

I was delighted to hear that the trust's Scan4Safety lead Jane Hawkes won the GS1 UK healthcare industry champion at an awards event last week.

This is a major, well deserved award and I'm very proud of the team for gaining this recognition.

This is for work the trust is doing to roll out a new programme (Scan4Safety) which will involve scanning barcodes to trace things such as patient records and products and will lead to improvements in patient care.

Visit to bowel screening

Last month we were delighted to welcome The Mayor of Stockton on Tees, Councillor Ken Dixon to the trust to take a look around the endoscopy unit at the University Hospital of North Tees.

Councillor Dixon, who has an interest in bowel screening, was very impressed with the service. He is supporting bowel cancer prevention and early diagnosis as part of his charitable work for the year.

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.