

NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting Date: 27 April 2016

Title and Author of Paper: Chief Executive's Report
John Lawlor, Chief Executive

Paper for Debate, Decision or Information:

Key Points to Note:

National issues

1. National whistleblowing policy
2. CQC review of how NHS Trusts investigate and learn from deaths

Regional issues

3. Health and Social Care Commission listening events and call for evidence

Trust issues

4. Safer Staffing Reporting Cycle
5. North Tyneside Accountable Care Organisation
6. Council of Governors Elections

Outcome required: For Information.

Chief Executive's Report

27 April 2016

National issues

1. National Whistleblowing Policy

Following a public consultation on the draft policy in November last year, NHS Improvement and NHS England published on 1 April 2016 a single national integrated whistleblowing policy to help standardise the way NHS organisations should support staff who raise concerns.

Recommended by Sir Robert Francis in his Freedom to Speak Up review, the new policy contributes to the need to develop a more open and supportive culture that encourages staff to raise any issues of patient care quality or safety.

The new national policy will ensure:

- NHS organisations encourage staff to speak up and set out the steps they will take to get to the bottom of any concerns;
- organisations will each appoint their own Whistleblowing Guardian, an independent and impartial source of advice to staff at any stage of raising a concern;
- any concerns not resolved quickly through line managers are investigated;
- investigations will be evidence-based and led by someone suitably independent in the organisation, producing a report which focuses on learning lessons and improving care;
- whistleblowers will be kept informed of the investigation's progress; and
- high level findings are provided to the organisation's Board and the policy will be annually reviewed and improved.

A review of the current Trust policy is being undertaken to ensure that it aligns with the national policy

2. CQC review of how NHS Trusts investigate and learn from deaths

The CQC has announced that it is carrying out a review of how NHS Trusts identify, report, investigate and learn from deaths of people using their services.

This follows a request from the Secretary of State for Health, which was part of the Government's response to a report into the deaths of people with a learning disability or mental health problem in contact with Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

The CQC's review will consider the quality of practice in relation to identifying, reporting and investigating the death of any person in contact with a health service managed by an NHS Trust; whether the person is in hospital, receiving care in a community setting or living in their own home. The review will pay particular attention to how NHS Trusts investigate and learn from deaths of people with a learning disability or mental health problem.

The findings will be reported in full at the end of the year.

Regional Issues

3. Health and Social Care Commission Listening Events and Call for Evidence

Individuals and organisations are invited to contribute evidence to the Commission for Health and Social Care to inform its work.

This independent commission, chaired by Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England, is now inviting individuals and organisations from across the combined authority area (County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland) and from neighbouring areas, to submit written evidence to help inform its work on the following themes:

- Supporting people to stay well and independent
- Focusing more on health, wellbeing and productivity
- Exploring opportunities to improve health and wellbeing through devolution

Evidence should be submitted by Monday 25th April and NTW is currently developing a submission.

During the second half of April the commission will hold listening events in each of the seven local authority areas within the combined authority area to provide individuals and organisations with the opportunity to discuss their ideas with members of the commission. Arrangements for the listening events are available from the Chief Executive's office.

Trust Issues

4. Safer Staffing Reporting Cycle

Following discussion at the March 2016 Board it was agreed that the monthly exception report on safer staffing would be considered at the Trust-wide Quality and Performance Committee, Corporate Decisions Team, Group Business Meeting and Group Quality and Performance Groups. The Board will now receive a quarterly Safer Staffing update and six monthly Skill Mix Review updates.

5. North Tyneside Accountable Care Organisation

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Accountable Care Organisation in North Tyneside has been agreed by a number of providers who deliver services to the people of North Tyneside. Those partners are now working together to develop the next stage of planning. This will enable the ACO to move from shadow form over the next year.

6. Governor Elections 2016

The second round of Governor Elections took place throughout March 2016.

Elected unopposed were:

Carer Governor, Learning Disability Services – **George Hardy** - two year term of office
Carer Governor, Neuro Disability Services – **Diane Kirtley** - three year term of office
Medical Staff Governor – **Dr Peter Okey** - three year term of office

Four candidates were nominated to represent Carer, Adult Services constituency and **Ann Carlile** was elected with a 5 vote majority for a three year term of office. There was a 23.24% turnout for the elections.

All four governors commenced on 1 April 2016.

The Council now has only one vacancy for a Carer Governor, Older People's Services.

John Lawlor
Chief Executive
April 2016