

NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Date: 27 May 2015

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

Paper for Debate, Decision or Information: For Information.

Key Points to Note:

1. General Election News – Government's Plans for the NHS
2. NHS Providers' Board
3. Learning Disability Transforming Care Project Update
4. Speak Easy: Round 2 and 'Conversation' briefings
5. Royal Institute of British Architects Awards 2015
6. Visit by the Royal College of Psychiatry
7. Visit by Chris Hopson (CE) and Saffron Cordery (Director of Policy), NHS Providers
8. Time to Change
9. Equality and Diversity Partnership status

Outcome required: For Information.

Chief Executive's Report

May 2015

1. General Election News – Government's Plans for the NHS

Following the General Election, the Board will be aware that Jeremy Hunt has been re-appointed as Secretary of State for Health. Ben Gummer has been appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health and Alistair Burt becomes Minister for Care and Support.

Relevant commitments in the manifesto towards the NHS were:

- To spend at least an additional £8 billion by 2020 over and above inflation to fund and support the NHS's own action plan for the next 5 years.
- To integrate health and social care through the Better Care Fund.
- To lead the world in fighting cancer and finding a cure for dementia.

2. NHS Providers' Board

Board members may be interested to note that I have been successful in my application to join the NHS Providers' Board as one of the mental health chairs or CEs on the Board.

I intend to use this as an opportunity to ensure that the voice (and voice) of the mental health and disabilities sector is fully heard and supported in negotiations with the Department of Health, NHS England, Monitor and the CQC.

I also hope it will enable the trust to continue to tackle head on the stigma associated with mental health and learning disabilities conditions and by doing so encourage people to talk about it and seek help.

3. Learning Disability Transforming Care Project Update

The transformation project now has an agreed structure using a Core Group and wider trust-wide project team approach. Work streams are being developed to ensure that very good clinical practice is in place across all pathways all of the time and that there is good involvement/engagement with users, families and external partners. Specific work streams will be developed themed around:

- Forensic services
- Children and transition
- Assessment and treatment
- Access to mainstream mental health services including crisis

The Project will report progress monthly to the CDT and via the Trust Programme Board.

A key success factor will be how NTW services interface and develop proposals in local areas with Councils, Clinical Commissioning Groups, other health and providers, including both voluntary sector and independent sector organisations. The core team are networking widely and ensuring that our staff are well positioned in the whole system planning groups being established across the NE and Cumbria.

The Northern Clinical Commissioning Groups have identified the transformation of learning disability services as their key priority for this financial year and launched this via a conference on 28 April 2015. Key stakeholders were present with good attendance from NTW. The Clinical Commissioning Group project will help develop a strategic context for this work. But the key to delivering the transformation of learning disabilities nationally and locally will be through developing better services in the community, especially for people with behaviours that challenge.

It is important that our learning disability ward staff are reassured that there will be posts for them into the future. The uncertainty and worry created by the national narrative around a 'LD closure programme' has already begun to have an effect on inpatient staffing, as some of our staff look for alternative posts across the trust for fear that their current ward 'is going to closer down'. A further piece is going into the Bulletin to provide reassurance as well as Group and Directorate managers seeking to calm nerves locally.

4. Speak Easy: Round 2 and 'Conversation' briefings

We will be running the next round of Speak Easy sessions on the 9th to the 11th June 2015. This time we are extending the events to cover a wider and broader number of areas and venues. We hope this will mean that even more staff will be able to come along and contribute.

The Speak Easy events this time will: include an update on the actions since the first events; and will also focus on some of the "stuck" issues identified by staff in the annual Staff Survey.

In addition, from late June 2015, the first of the new style 'Team Brief' arrangements will start. These will be sessions of around half an hour where staff will get the chance to discuss in their local teams some of the key issues across the trust as well as any local issues they wish to consider. To signal that these sessions will not be top-down, one-way briefings I have given it a slightly tongue-in-cheek strap line of "A little MORE conversation; a little MORE action please"!

5. Royal Institute of British Architects Awards 2015

I am delighted to announce that the Hopewood Park team was presented with an RIBA Award earlier in the month. Hopewood Park was one of only two buildings in the North East to be recognised. I am also very pleased to say that NTW were also presented with the North East Client of Year Award. I'm sure Board members would wish to join me in offering our congratulations to everyone involved.

The trust's services and staff have also been shortlisting in a number of other national and regional awards showcasing a range of different aspects of NHS and care services. Board members will be kept in touch with the outcome of these once the results become known.

6. Visit by the Royal College of Psychiatry

The RCPsych's Commission visited NTW on Wednesday 12 May 2015 as part of their considerations of inpatient mental health services. 13 commissioners visited including the Chair, Sir Nigel Crisp. They met with a selection of staff from community, crisis and inpatient services, as well as a range of service users, carers and peer support workers. They also had the opportunity to visit wards, the PICU and the Initial Response Service.

The Commissioners remarked that they were very impressed by the welcome they received and by the excellent environment in which services were being delivered. They were also struck by the enthusiasm and motivation of all the staff they met. The services they heard about from service users and carers also left them with a very positive impression and they were very interested to see the difference between NTW services and some of those they had visited in other parts of the country.

I am sure Board members would wish to congratulate our staff for their commitment and excellent work; as well as the service users, carers and peer support workers who gave of their time to contribute to the very positive visit.

7. Visit by Chris Hopson (CE) and Saffron Cordery (Director of Policy), NHS Providers

Chris Hopson, Chief Executive, NHS Providers and Saffron Cordery, Director of Policy visited the Trust on 30 April 2015. They were invited to visit us to enable them to learn more about the services we provide and the current challenges facing providers of mental health, learning disability and neuro-disability services. They visited Ferndene and also the Newcastle West community mental health team.

Discussion topics included learning disability inpatient services and the transforming care agenda; pressures on children and young people's services; and emerging pressures on community services, for example through the greater use of 'legal highs'.

Chris and Saffron were also very interested to hear about our service transformation programme and, in particular, some of the significant improvements that are beginning to come through, as well as some of the challenges are associated with such radical, trust-wide service and cultural change.

Thanks must go to all of the staff who made the visit so successful; from the reception staff who provided such a warm welcome, to the clinical staff and managers who so openly and honestly shared their experiences.

8. 'Time to Change'

NTW is one of two Trusts to have been selected by 'Time to Change', Mind and Rethink to participate in a new one year project to explore the role that professionals working in mental health services could play in reducing the levels of discrimination reported by people using secondary care mental health services. This is a very exciting opportunity for the Trust to be at the forefront of campaigning anti-stigma work undertaken by 'Time to Change'. The first working group will take place in June and further information will be provided to Board members when more detail is known.

9. Equality and Diversity Partnership status

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust has been chosen to be one of NHS Employers Equality and Diversity Partners for 2015/16. Every year NHS Employers invite applications from NHS organisations for 25 Partnership places. This year, 42 applications were received for the 25 places. Over the next year, NHS Employers will be working with us to support the embedding and integration of diversity and inclusion into the culture and structures of the Trust.

Partner status is awarded to organisations that can demonstrate they are delivering against the following measurable criteria:

- improving patient access and experience;
- empowered, engaged and well-supported staff;
- inclusive leadership at all levels; and
- better health outcomes for all.

As a Partner, over the course of the year we will be working with NHS Employers and the other Partners - as well as other national stakeholders such as the Leadership Academy and NHS England - to support system wide efforts to improve diversity and equality across the NHS. This might include presenting some of our work in the form of case studies or facilitating workshops or other learning forums at a national or regional level.

We also will support sharing and dissemination of good and best practice across and around our local area and region. This might include participating in consultations on national policy and proposed legislative changes, engaging in social media campaigns to promote diversity and inclusion and participating in national activities such as the Personal, Fair and Diverse campaign and Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Week.