

EAST KENT HOSPITALS UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**REPORT TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**DATE:** 27 MARCH 2015**SUBJECT:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**REPORT FROM:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE**PURPOSE:** Information**CONTEXT / REVIEW HISTORY / STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

The Chief Executive provides a monthly report to the Board of Directors providing key updates from within the organisation, Monitor, Department of Health and other key stakeholders.

SUMMARY

The monthly report from the Chief Executive provides the Board of Directors with key issues related to:

- Recent DH/Monitor bulletins/DH newsletters/CQC briefings
- Trust Developments / initiatives
- National Tariff Payment System
- Extension to Annual Planning Timetable
- Consultations
- Latest Publications

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board of Directors is asked to note the report.

NEXT STEPS

N/A

IMPACT ON TRUST'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

Compliance with notifications from regulatory bodies and policy changes all contribute towards achievement of strategic objectives.

LINKS TO THE BOARD ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK:

To enable the Trust to respond in a timely fashion with appropriate information which may affect the Trust's rating with Monitor and the CQC.

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

None

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY:

None.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TAKEN ON ANY NOVEL OR CONTENTIOUS ISSUES:

None

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:

The Board of Directors is asked to note the report.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT TAKING ACTION:

Failure of the Trust to respond in a timely fashion with appropriate information may affect the Trusts rating with Monitor and the CQC.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1. KEY ITEMS FROM RECENT MONITOR/DH BULLETINS/NEWSLETTERS

FT Bulletin – January 2015

- Foundation trust accounting officers should be aware that HM Treasury has recently confirmed that all PFI termination or buy-out transactions are 'novel and contentious' as defined by Managing Public Money (MPM). Foundation trusts undertaking such transactions will therefore require HM Treasury and Department of Health (DH) approval. This review and approval process will run alongside a Monitor review where Monitor is otherwise reviewing such a transaction because it has been judged to be significant under the 'Risk assessment framework'.
- Monitor is encouraging all trusts to ensure they have robust processes in place to complete routine and robust data validation across all specialties, for admitted, non-admitted and incomplete pathways. This should include making sure that the processes of applying and recording RTT rules are clear and well understood.
- Monitor reminded Trusts if operations were cancelled on the day a patient is due to arrive, after they have arrived, or on the day that their operation is due to take place, you should offer new dates for treatment which are within 28 days of their original appointment. This is a standard pledge in the NHS Constitution.

2. NATIONAL TARIFF PAYMENT SYSTEM

Monitor completed its analysis of responses in January 2015 to the statutory consultation on the proposed rules and prices in the National Tariff for 2015/16. As the share of total tariff income received by the objecting providers exceeded 51%, the National Tariff could not be introduced in its current form and implementation was delayed.

These developments have introduced some uncertainty as well as some new opportunities to ensure the NHS is as well-positioned as possible going into 2015/16.

Monitor therefore decided to offer providers the choice of an *enhanced alternative* (the Enhanced Tariff Option – ETO) for the full year ahead (2015/16), worth around £500 million more to providers than the originally offered tariff proposals. The majority of these extra costs will ultimately be borne by NHS England, who will offer targeted additional funding support to CCGs to help offset some of the pressures arising. NHS England will be writing separately to CCGs to set out how this new option will work from a commissioner point of view.

The default position for any provider not opting for the ETO is that current 2014/15 national prices will remain in force until such time as they are formally superseded but no CQUIN will be payable.

The decision made by providers will be for the full year 2015/16 without the opportunity to switch mid year.

Providers were asked to confirm their preferred option by 4 March 2015. EKHUFT confirmed to Monitor it would prefer to use ETO.

3. EXTENSION TO ANNUAL PLANNING TIMETABLE

In light of the interim proposals for the 2015/16 National Tariff, Monitor has outlined an extension to the existing planning timetable. Monitor has recognised commissioners will need additional time to respond to changes in their planning and contracting processes.

The full draft submission deadline has been extended from 27 February 2015 to early April 2015.

A full revised planning timetable had not been received at the time of writing the report.

4. TRUST DEVELOPMENTS / INITIATIVES

Board Shadowing

The Board of Directors have begun a programme of job shadowing working alongside staff as they go about their 'everyday' jobs.

New Patient Menu

Following feedback from patients and relatives new patients menus have been developed and launched. EKHUFT teams from catering, nursing, speech and language therapy, along with the dietetics department at the Kent Community Health NHS Trust and Serco, have been involved in developing this new style menu enabling patients to choose from a wider range of foods than ever before. Key changes include:

- Options for lighter meals at lunchtime;
- Improvements to evening meals with a choice of two soups;
- The menu layout has been improved by grouping foods and adding new coding to assist patients with dietary requirements, or choosing healthier options;
- The allergen and nutritional information will be available via the housekeepers on wards;
- Over half the means contain more than 500 kcals to boost nutritional intake to tackle malnutrition;
- Sandwiches served during the evening have been upgraded with a new range being launched;

The changes have received positive feedback from patients. Feedback will be monitored before the final menu is launched in three months' time.

Health Education Kent, Surrey & Sussex (HEKSS) Awards

A member of the Trust's HR Department won Apprentice Ambassador of the Year at the Health Education Kent, Surrey & Sussex (HEKSS) Awards for National Apprenticeship Week. The individual has completed a Level 3 advanced apprenticeship in business administration, for her work to promote NHS Apprenticeships.

5. PUBLICATIONS

MONITOR'S LATEST PUBLICATIONS:

Annual planning review 2015/16: guidance for foundation trusts

Planning guidance for foundation trusts, including joint planning guidance from Monitor, NHS England, the NHS Trust Development Authority, the Care Quality Commission, Public Health England and Health Education England.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389958/forward-view-plning.pdf

NHS foundation trusts: requirements for quality reports 2014/15

The changes from the 2013/14 arrangements are minor and can be found in the section 'Statement of Directors' Responsibilities'. We have also clarified that the disclosure of referral to treatment performance indicators in the quality report should be based on the average for the year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trusts-requirements-for-quality-reports-201415>

Approved Costing Guidance

Costing principles and guidance for providers of NHS-funded services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approved-costing-guidance>

NHS Foundation Trust Quarterly Performance Report

Summarises the performance of the NHS foundation trust sector for the third quarter of 2014/15.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trusts-quarterly-performance-report-quarter-3-201415>

Special Measures Guidance Updates

Describes how the special measures programme for NHS trusts and foundation trusts works.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-measures-a-guide-for-nhs-trusts-and-foundation-trusts>

Guidance to support the introduction of access and waiting time standards for mental health services in 2015 to 2016

This document sets out details on how new mental health access and waiting standard times will be measured.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/mh-access-wait-time-guid.pdf>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**Freedom to Speak up**

Sir Robert Francis publishes his report on the Freedom to Speak Up review. In his report Sir Robert sets out 20 Principles and Actions which aim to create the right conditions for NHS staff to speak up, share what works right across the NHS and get all organisations up to the standard of the best and provide redress when things go wrong in future.

<http://freedomtospeakup.org.uk/the-report/>

6. CONSULTATIONS**Updates to Monitor's Risk Assessment Framework:****Views required by 18 February 2015**

Monitor has proposed changes to the Risk Assessment Framework (RAF), including new mental health targets being put in place by the government.

Views on the approach are required to make sure NHS foundation trusts are well run and can continue to provide good quality services for patients.

Responses can be received online or by email at raf@monitor.gov.uk.

Our proposals for transforming NHS costing processes:**Feedback required by 17 January 2015**

Monitor has published proposals highlighting the need for the NHS to get better at collecting accurate cost, activity and outcome data at an individual patient level. They are keen to hear from NHS providers, commissioners and others involved or interested in the costing of NHS services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-costing-of-nhs-services-proposals-for-2015-to-2021>

Stuart Bain
Chief Executive