

EAST KENT HOSPITALS UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

REPORT TO:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 28 MARCH 2014
SUBJECT:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
PURPOSE:	Information
CONTEXT / REVIEW HISTORY / STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT The monthly report from the Chief Executive will provide the Board of Directors with key issues related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recent DH/Monitor bulletins/DH newsletters/CQC briefings- Kent Pathology Partnership Update- Cardiac First at William Harvey Hospital- Outpatients Consultation- Latest Publications- Consultations	
IMPACT ON TRUST'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: Compliance with notifications from regulatory bodies and policy changes all contribute towards achievement of strategic objectives.	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Nil	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY: Nil	
PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TAKEN ON ANY NOVEL OR CONTENTIOUS ISSUES: Nil	
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**FTN Networked February 2014

Health Select Committee to hold inquiry into complaints and raising concerns
The Health Select Committee is holding an inquiry into complaints and raising concerns. In particular, the committee will review progress in improving the handling of complaints from patients and the public, and concerns raised by staff. This follows the committee 2011 inquiry into complaints and litigation, which recommended that the government undertake a review of the NHS complaints system.

This Week / Next Week March 2014**CQC Inspections**

Richards: The Care Quality Commission must do more to improve the consistency of its judgements, the chief inspector of hospitals has said. He spoke after it emerged a leading London teaching hospital successfully challenged the regulator's plan to issue it a warning notice.

NICE consultation on staffing guidelines

NICE has begun work on a series of safe staffing guidelines which will provide practical evidence-based support for local decision-making. The focus of the guidelines will be on nursing and midwifery staffing levels, including nursing support staff, to ensure an appropriate balance of skill-mix across the whole team on wards and in other settings. To comment on the draft guideline during the consultation period in May, organisations should register as stakeholders with NICE.

Today's Health News Summary March 2014**FTN responds to government pay announcement**

The Financial Times £ reports on the government's announcement of a basic 1% pay rise. Some experts argued that the public sector would have to reduce its reliance on across-the-board pay curbs and embrace reform, including radical changes to terms and conditions, if it was to make the savings needed under the government's austerity programme, while trade unions are reported to have threatened industrial action. FTN chief executive Chris Hopson said: "Our members have been telling us that they cannot continue to provide the right quality of care to patients within the current financial constraints without taking a more radical look at NHS pay, terms and conditions

Hunt gains powers to shut hospitals without consultation

The Independent writes that health secretary Jeremy Hunt is to gain powers to shut down local hospitals at short notice even if they are performing strongly, despite opposition from Labour and rebel coalition MPs to the move. The authority centres on a provision in the Care Bill that allows a hospital to be closed or scaled back if a neighbouring trust develops serious financial problems. It was added to the bill after the High Court ruled last year that Hunt had exceeded his powers when he decided emergency and maternity units at Lewisham hospital in London should be cut to save a neighbouring trust. A Labour attempt to defeat the move was defeated last night by 297 to 239 votes. Six Tories rebelled on the issue.

2. KENT PATHOLOGY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The eight workstreams have been active in moving forward the KPP project. An IM&T Project Manager is now in place and a project plan developed. In terms of procurement the Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ), and a Memorandum of Information (MOI), and the PQQ evaluation document have been created in draft form. In addition the KPP Risk Register has been populated.

3. CARDIAC FIRST

The William Harvey Hospital has become one of the first hospitals in the country – and the first in Kent – to implant the smallest cardiac monitoring device available.

The wireless miniature device is one-third the size of a AAA battery and nearly invisible to the naked eye for most patients. It allows physicians to continuously and wirelessly monitor a patient's heart rhythm for up to three years.

The Reveal LINQ ICM is indicated for patients who experience symptoms such as dizziness, palpitation or unexplained recurrent syncope (fainting) in whom the short term cardiac monitoring or routine ECG were not diagnostic. The device is placed using a minimally invasive insertion procedure and allows patients to undergo MRI imaging of needed.

4. OUTPATIENT CONSULTATION

The last of the consultation meetings were held at Faversham and Herne Bay on 13 March 2014 with the deadline for feedback on 17 March 2014. The Trust will collate all the feedback it has received and send this to the University of Kent for formal evaluation.

Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group will consider the feedback alongside the Trust and it is likely that the outcome will be discussed at the respective Boards in June 2014.

5. PUBLICATIONS

MONITOR'S LATEST PUBLICATIONS:

FT Strategic and Operational Planning Guidance

Monitor's guidance sets out their increased focus on strategic planning and expectations of foundation trusts. It provides practical guidance on the tools, submissions and processes that foundation trusts will need to use. Of particular note is a self-assessment tool that can be used by boards and executives to evaluate the quality of the strategic planning being undertaken.

Publication of the 2014/15 National Tariff Payment System

This has been published following Monitor and NHS England's statutory consultation in October, giving commissioners and providers more time to prepare for next year. During the consultation, Monitor asked stakeholders to respond to final proposals for the 2014/15 tariff. CCGs and relevant providers had the opportunity to formally object to the method proposed to calculate national prices. The number of objections was well below prescribed thresholds approved by Parliament. Monitor is now working with NHS England on plans for the 2015/16 national tariff. This will involve further engagement with the sector over the coming months

Guidance on producing your annual reports and accounts

Guidance for foundation trusts on producing Foundation Trust annual reports and accounts has been published by Monitor, following their consultation in May 2013. A copy is available on their publications section of their website.

Code of governance published

The code of governance has been updated and published on our website here, following their consultation during November 2013. A copy is available on their publications section of their website.

OTHER PUBLICATION NEWS:**Detailed Guidance on the Production of Quality Reports 2013/14**

NHS foundation trusts must include a report on the quality of care they provide within their overall annual report. The quality report specifically aims to improve public accountability for the quality of care.

Quality of care reports: detailed guidance for external assurance

Monitor has published detailed guidance to help foundation trusts and auditors carry out the required external assurance of their quality of care reports. The guidance for 2013/14 aims to help improve public accountability for the quality of care your trust provides.

Approved Costing Guidance

Monitor's *Approved Costing Guidance* has been updated. This includes the reference cost collection guidance for 2013/14 as well as voluntary PLICS collection guidance and templates for 2013/14. View on our website here.

Monitor's review of the foundation trust sector

Monitor has published their report on the performance of the foundation trust sector over the last nine months. This can be found on Monitor's website.

Sustainable development strategy launched

The new sustainable development strategy for the health, public health and social care system 2014-20 was launched last week, describing the vision for a sustainable health and care system by reducing carbon emissions, protecting natural resources, preparing communities for extreme weather events and promoting health lifestyles and environments.

6. CONSULTATIONS

Taken from the FTN Newsletters:

Draft governance review guidance

Monitor published draft guidance on carrying out governance reviews. The guidance is designed to support foundation trusts in gaining assurance that the foundation trust is well led and, therefore, able to meet patients' needs and expectations in challenging circumstances. Responses are required by **5pm Friday 7 March 2014**.

NHS England ask people to register interest in working to share the future of healthcare

NHS England invite people to register their interest in working to shape the future of healthcare to design a people powered NHS. NHS England will be developing approaches and networks to ensure that people's input can be sought, heard and acted on. The opportunity to register an interest in this is open until March 2014.

NHS England consults on clinical reference group stakeholder registration

NHS England is seeking views on registration to specialised services clinical reference groups. Stakeholder registration is initially open for clinical staff or provider organisations working within specialised services.

Governance Reviews: Consultation document

Monitor has given details of how it expects foundation trusts to arrange external reviews of their board's effectiveness on a three yearly basis. The regulator said the change was needed because governance problems were increasing across the sector. It is now consulting on a review framework which involves assessment of how a board is doing in four areas: strategy and planning capability and culture; process and structures; and measurement. Responsibility for appointing external reviewers has been given to trusts, however if boards receive any amber-red or red ratings, their chair will be required to inform Monitor and set out plans to address the shortcoming.

DH consultation on fundamental standards

The Department of Health has taken forward responses to last year's CQC consultation A New Start to draft new regulations that will introduce the Fundamental Standards below which care should never fall. It has now launched a consultation on these proposals, to which the FTN will be responding. Please send any views to John Coutts by 2 April.

Stuart Bain
Chief Executive