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Oxford Health   
NHS Foundation Trust

<b>BOD 88/2011</b> (Agenda Item: 4)
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**Report to the Meeting of the  
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust  
Board of Directors**

**29 June 2011**

**Chief Executive's Report**

**For Information**

**1. Infection Control Update**

**Community health services**

There was a confirmed outbreak of norovirus on Wenrisc ward at Witney community hospital from 29 May to 9 June. It affected 14 patients and 8 staff. The whole ward was closed for 2 days and then opened to admissions with only the affected bays remaining static and closed. It was fully opened following a final terminal clean on the 9 June.

**Mental health services**

There was a suspected norovirus outbreak at Lambourne House from 20 May to 23 May 2011. The ward was closed to admissions during this time (although it was full) and three patients had symptoms. This equates to being closed for 3 days in total.

**2. Ridgeway Partnership**

The Trust has been informed that Julia Clarke will step down as Chairman of the Ridgeway Partnership (Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust) to take on post as Chief Executive of Bristol Community Health. John Morgan continues in the role as Chief Executive.

**3. Award for Contraception and Sexual Health Service**

The Trust's Contraception and Sexual Health Service has been awarded the 'You're Welcome Standard' by the Department of Health. Over a nine month period the team collated evidence that was assessed against a DH quality framework which focuses on ensuring that services are 'young people friendly'.

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### **4. The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 – The Government's Response to the NHS Future Forum Report**

The Government has announced changes to their health reforms (as set out in the Health and Social Care Bill) in response to the NHS Future Forum's Report.

The key changes include:

- Making an explicit commitment that the Secretary of State retains and is accountable for the overall responsibility of securing the comprehensive provision of health services. This will make clearer the means by which the Secretary will hold the new national bodies to account.
- Strengthening the governance of the clinical commissioning groups (note the change in title from GP consortia), with a requirement to meet in public and ensure lay input to their governing bodies, and introducing a requirement for NHS foundation trust boards to meet in public.
- Widening the clinical input to commissioning by establishing clinical senates and clinical networks to advise commissioning groups and by requiring their governing bodies to include a specialist doctor and a nurse.
- Introducing flexibility in the implementation timetable:
  - Clinical commissioning groups will not be required to take on their responsibilities from April 2013 if not ready and willing.
  - Primary Care Trusts, as previously stated, continue to 2013 when the clusters will be reflected in the NHS Commissioning Board structure.
  - Strategic Health Authorities will now continue until 2013 (although as clustered groupings as yet unspecified).
  - Removing the blanket deadline for all NHS trusts to become FT's by April 2014, although they will be required to move to FT status when 'clinically feasible'.
- Removing the duty to promote competition from Monitor and replacing it with a core duty to protect and promote patients' interests and also to promote integration. Phasing the introduction of Any Qualified Provider and introducing a 'choice mandate' for the NHS Commissioning Board which will guide the actions of Clinical Commissioning Groups and Monitor in this regard.

Next Steps for the reforms:

- The Government will publish a Command Paper, and David Nicholson, Chief executive of the NHS, will issue a letter to NHS organisations with more detail on how the changes will work in practice.
- The Government will publish amendments to the legislation.

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- The Bill will return to Committee stage in the Commons, allowing line by line scrutiny of the amendments. No dates have been announced but this is expected to happen during July.
- The NHS Future Forum will continue to lead on listening in the NHS. Among other areas they will focus on education and training; patients' rights and public health.

### **5. Foundation Trust Network**

On 21 June 2010, the Chief Executive attended the inaugural Chairs and Chief Executives Meeting of the newly independent Foundation Trust Network (FTN). At that meeting the FTN launched its consultation on its future role and governance. Each member FT will be able to submit one response to the consultation which closes on 14 September. An oral update on the key items discussed at the meeting will be provided at the Board meeting.

### **6. NIHR – Biomedical Research Unit Application**

The University of Oxford and Trust have submitted a joint application for a Biomedical Research Unit funding award. This follows the success through stage 1 of the initial application.

### **7. Divisional Director, Community Services**

Heather Rice has been appointed as the Divisional Director, Community Services on a permanent basis. Six candidates were shortlisted and, in line with the appointment process for the other Divisional Directors, went through an interview and testing process. This follows the appointment of Pete McGrane as the Interim Clinical Director for Community Services.

### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the report.

**Lead Executive Director:** Julie Waldron, Chief Executive