

BOD 30/2014

(Agenda Item: 5)

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

**26 March 2014**

**Chief Executive’s Report**

**For Information**

***National Issues***

**1. Compassionate Care**

On 7 March 2014, the Secretary of State for Health set out a number of important changes to support NHS staff to raise concerns about patient care and safety. Changes include ensuring all NHS employment contracts include the right to raise concerns about care and amending the NHS Constitution to support staff to raise concerns. A national helpline will also be established to provide health and social care staff a confidential way to voice their concerns. All these changes are alongside the work underway to introduce the new duty of candour which will oblige NHS bodies to tell patients when things have gone wrong and admit mistakes.

Alongside this, we need to continue to ensure that our culture, and our processes and procedures, support our staff to raise concerns with managers so that we can put things right immediately. Patient safety is our top priority and we want to foster an environment in which staff want to know how patients and carers experience our care and are supported to find ways to improve care.

I have asked the Director of Finance in his capacity as Board lead for HR to look at the changes announced by the Secretary of State and ensure that we take account of these alongside the work we are already doing.

**2. Differential Tariff Deflator**

There has been recent coverage in the media about the NHS England and Monitor’s decision to apply a differential tariff to non-acute trusts in 2014-15 (acute trusts will see their tariff price cut by 1.5 per cent whereas mental health and community trusts face a reduction of 1.8 per cent) which has raised concerns about the parity of esteem between physical and mental health care. The rationale presented for the decision is that the cost of implementing recommendations of the Francis Report did not impact on non-acute trusts.

I and colleagues have been setting out our concerns with this decision at various national fora, including the FTN. The consequence of this decision will have a serious impact on the Trust’s financial position and we, along with other mental health and community health trusts, need to work together to have the tariff changed. The issue has also been raised with our Council of Governors.

***Local / Trust Issues***

**3. CEO Stakeholder Meetings & Visits**

Since the last meeting, key stakeholders that I have met, visits I have undertaken and meetings that I have attended have included:

* TVWLA Board
* External Assessor for the CEO interviews Sussex Partnership Trust
* FTN Chairs and CEOs Network
* FTN Community Services Group – recently appointed as the chair for this group
* SE Mental Health CEOs meeting
* Healthy Bucks Leaders
* OxAHSC – celebration event
* ASHN Mental Health Event
* Oxford Brookes University 150 anniversary celebrations
* Bucks HASC meeting – presentation on Service Remodelling Adult and Older Peoples MH Services
* National Mental Health Payment Systems Programme
* Health England Thames Valley Board meeting

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the report.

**Lead Executive Director:** Stuart Bell, Chief Executive