

BOD 117/2014

(Agenda item: 4)

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

**24 October 2014**

**Chief Executive’s Report**

**For Information**

***National Issues***

**1. Mental Health Parity of Esteem**

The national discussion on parity of esteem for mental health continues with the Royal College of Psychiatrists publishing in September 2014 its manifesto setting out six areas it believes the next government should focus on to improve the nation’s mental health. The areas identified by the College are:-

* Mental health bed numbers
* Introduction of maximum waiting times
* Improving crisis care
* Improving liaison psychiatry services
* Introduction of minimum unit price for alcohol
* Investment in parenting programmes

A copy of the manifesto is attached to the report and I welcome the College’s intervention into this national debate.

**2. Mental Health: Achieving Better Access by 2020**

The Department of Health published a *Achieving Better Access to Mental Health Services by 2020*, copy attached, which seeks to address the Government’s commitment to achieving parity of esteem for mental health (as set out in the previous publications – *No Health Without Mental Health* and *Closing the Gap*). This latest policy document sets out national waiting time standards to be introduced from April 2015 alongside wider plans designed to improve access to mental health services. The waiting time standards for mental health that come into effect from 1 April 2015 are:-

* Treatment within 6 weeks for 75 per cent of people referred to the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, with 95 per cent of people being treated within 18 weeks.
* Treatment within 2 weeks for more than 50 per cent of people experiencing a first episode of psychosis.

The report sets out that investment will be made to help achieve these targets and we await confirmation as to what will be made available to mental health providers as part of this. We are now looking at the commitments and considering how we can work towards achieving them.

**3. Monitor Guidance on Strategy Development**

Monitor has published guidance for NHS foundation trust boards on what to look for when assuring the quality of the trust’s strategy. A copy of the guidance document has been sent to directors out-of-session but may also be accessed here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-development-a-guide-for-nhs-foundation-trust-boards>

We still await confirmation from Monitor on their annual planning process for 2015/16 (this is expected in early December 2014 – see below). Monitor has advised it will launch a new toolkit which will contain guidance on the development of a strategy.

**4. Letter from Monitor, NHS England and TDA**

Monitor, NHS England and the NHS Trust Development Agency have jointly written to NHS foundation trusts and NHS trust setting out expectations about NHS performance and the 2015/16 planning process. A copy of the letter is attached. I will attend the Midlands & East briefing session on 31 October and will update the Board after that.

***Local / Trust Issues***

**5. 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:

* Health England Thames Valley Board Development Session
* Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
* Thames Valley Mental Health Crisis Concordat Event
* Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Most Capable Provider Assessment Evaluation Panel
* Oxfordshire Childrens’ Safeguarding Board
* Clinical Senate Council Members meeting
* Executive-to-Executive: Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
* Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Outcome Based Commissioning presentation
* CQC Summit – Humber NHS Foundation Trust
* FTN Community Services Group
* CEOs surgery with staff across the Trust
* Buckinghamshire Strategic Health Liaison Board
* Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group Homicide Review
* Medical Staffing Committee Awayday
* CLARHC Board

**6. Ebola Epidemic**

Given the growing concerns around the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the likelihood that cases will appear in the United Kingdom, the Trust will undertake a desk-top exercise of its plan’s to deal with such an outbreak on 31 October 2014. The exercise will use a scenario developed by Public Health England and we will report our findings to NHS England.

**7. Whiteleaf Centre Official Opening**

The Whiteleaf Centre in Aylesbury was officially opened on 8 October 2014 by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex. The Whiteleaf Centre is a purpose-built, high quality facility providing mental health care for people in Buckinghamshire. Incorporating four inpatient wards, day hospital facilities, and providing a range of outpatient treatments, the centre opened its doors to patients in February 2014 and cost £42.8m. Her Royal Highness was given a tour of the new facility, including Opal Ward, a 20-bedded mixed-sex rehabilitation ward, by key staff involved in the development of the unit. Her Royal Highness was also shown the nature-inspired artwork throughout the Whiteleaf Centre that was created by artists in close partnership with service users before officially opening the unit and unveiling a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the report.

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