

BOD 19/2015

(Agenda item: 5)

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

**25 February 2015**

**Chief Executive’s Report**

**For Approval**

***National Issues***

**1. Freedom to Speak Up Report**

Sir Robert Francis published his report on the ‘Freedom to Speak Up’ review which sets out 20 principles and actions. The aim of the review was to provide advice and recommendations to ensure NHS staff in England felt safe to raise concerns and have confidence that the concerns will be listened to and acted on. I attach a copy of the Executive Summary of the full report.

The Secretary of State for Health said that the Government accepted in principle all of the report’s recommendations, including proposed new legislation to protect whistleblowers who are applying for NHS jobs from discrimination by prospective employers. I understand that the Government will also consult on other measures including the proposal to have a National Whistleblowing Guardian, local whistleblowing guardians in every NHS organisation, and training for staff on how to raise concerns and protect those who do.

In addition, Monitor wrote to all NHS foundation trusts to emphasise the importance of the review and seeking support in making staff aware of the expectation that they will come forward, speak up and raise concerns. I sent a copy of this letter to all staff and we discussed at our most recent Extended Executive team meeting how we can ensure that we develop the right culture in the Trust to ensure concerns are raised and acted on. I am proposing that our newly formed Well-led Quality Sub-committee that I chair will consider this in more detail.

**2. Culture Change in the NHS**

Alongside the above, the Department of Health published a report called ‘Culture change in the NHS: applying the lessons of the Francis Inquires’. This report shows what been achieved against the 290 recommendations made through Sir Robert Francis’s public inquiry into Mid Staffs, and where further action is needed to ensure that safe, effective and compassionate care is the norm.

In publishing the report, the Department of Health also set out new measures that it sees as further improving the culture of the NHS. These include:-

* a consultation on the financial sanctions for NHS bodies who do not comply with the Duty of Candour;
* a greater focus on transparency, particularly in relation to avoidable deaths;
* a consultation on updating the NHS Constitution to enshrine patients’ rights; and
* a new complaints guide to help patients raise concerns about care.

I would encourage Board members to review the progress being made in the searchable online version of the report:-

<http://www.engage.dh.gov.uk/francisresponse/>

**3. Special Measures Guide**

Monitor, the Care Quality Commission and NHS Trust Development Authority have jointly published updated guidance on the special measures programme for NHS foundation trusts and NHS trusts. A copy may be accessed here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403083/Special_measures_update_feb_2015_final_for_publication.pdf>

An NHS foundation trust may be placed in special measures by Monitor either based on its own evidence or based on a recommendation from the CQC (through the Chief Inspector of Hospitals). Monitor would then take appropriate regulatory in line with its powers as set out in the Enforcement Guidance. Typically, NHS foundation trusts will be subject to the following interventions:-

* appointment of an improvement director;
* support arrangements from partner organisations; and/or
* review of the capability of trust’s leadership.

An NHS foundation trust will be removed from special measures following CQC re-inspection.

***Local / Trust Issues***

**4. 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:

* Mental Health Payment System Steering Group
* Future Vision Programme
* Monitor Q3 Teleconference
* Precision Medicine Catapult visit with local partnership organisations and representatives from DH and Innovate UK
* Oxfordshire Systems Leaders’ Transformation Board
* Partnership Working for Children in Buckinghamshire
* Department of Psychiatry meeting with Geraldine Strathdee, National Clinical Director Mental Health
* CLARHC Board
* Oxfordshire CEOs meeting with Forum Chairs’ OCCG

**5. Cedric Scroggs**

It is with great sadness that I must report that Cedric Scroggs, Vice-chair, passed away on 11 February 2015.

Cedric has made an invaluable and longstanding contribution to this organisation, serving as a Non-Executive Director of the current Trust's Board since 2006 and as Vice-Chair since 2008. He was a key Board member in helping us to become an NHS foundation trust and was on the Board of our predecessor Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust over twenty years ago, serving for a time as acting Chair. He was also a former Chair of South East Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust.

Cedric brought a wide range of expertise to our organisation, having been a visiting Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford and a marketing director in various industries. He was formerly Chief Executive of Fisons plc, and a former Chairman of Montpellier Group PLC.

I am sure you will join me in offering condolences to Cedric's family, friends and many former colleagues.

**6. Justinian Habner**

Our Trust Secretary, Justinian Habner, has resigned his position as he is relocating to Singapore. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Justinian for his work with the Trust since joining us in late 2007 and wish him all the best for the future.

The Chairman and I are in the process of agreeing Justinian’s departure date and have started the recruitment process. I will keep the Board informed of progress.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the report.

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