

**Report to the Meeting of the
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Board of Directors

27 January 2021

Trust Chair's Report

For: Information /Discussion

BOD 02/2021
(Agenda item: 4)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 - People - Be a great place to work

Staff Wellbeing

NHS centre is putting renewed emphasis on the Board's responsibility for the wellbeing of staff and I am discussing with Bernard Galton and Mohinder Sawhney, Non-Executive Directors, how best to embody the Non-Executive Directors' interest. Wellbeing issues run from vaccine take-up through to uplifting the morale of staff working from home and planning for whatever normality might look like if and when the pandemic is contained; there is a possibility of joint working on wellbeing across the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) system. We are trying to measure the effects of at-a-distance working, for clinicians as for other staff, and the implications of new habits of working for our use of physical space, buildings and travel. I was struck at the latest meeting of Mental Health Act Managers how positively some colleagues have adapted to online working. We have talked about a 'committee for the future'; some kind of pooling of experiences and ideas about the lessons being learned from the pandemic will go ahead.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 - Sustainability – Make best use of our resources and protect the environment

Environmental Sustainability

Among them are our physical footprint and use of resources. This week Oxford City Council convenes a zero carbon summit. As a Trust we need to give focus to the multiple ways in which we might be more sustainable. Translating carbon reduction aims, however consensual, into changed behaviour and operational budgets remains a work in progress. Here, as elsewhere, we need more data on comparative performance. Fellow mental health trust chairs are keen to share more numbers.

System Working

NHS England has now collected responses to its consultation over the shape of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). Opinion within provider trusts seems to favour making the ICS statutory, but somehow avoiding: a) their becoming an instrument for performance management by the centre; and b) their infringing the autonomy of provider trusts. To me one of the biggest issues is how and whether party-political councillors could be incorporated into the running of the ICS. Here, the strength of the county councils in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire is a distinct feature of the BOB landscape.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the report.

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1. *A risk assessment has been undertaken around the legal issues that this report presents and there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors*
2. **Strategic Objectives:**
 - 1) *Quality - Deliver the best possible clinical care and health outcomes*
 - 2) *People - Be a great place to work*
 - 3) *Sustainability – Make best use of our resources and protect the environment*
 - 4) *Research and Education – Become a leader in healthcare research and education*