

Summary report of the meeting of the Board of Directors held on Friday 1 March 2013

This report presents a brief summary of the issues discussed at the March 2013 meeting of Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust Board of Directors. Its meeting was held in two parts, the first part in private and the second part in public. The formal minutes of the meeting held in public will be issued with the agenda for the Board's next meeting in April 2013.

1. Patient story

The Board heard a patient story relating to care provided to a family whose baby's health deteriorated shortly after birth and who subsequently died. The case was investigated as a serious untoward incident, to which the family had an opportunity to contribute. The role of genetic screening in unexplained deaths was discussed.

2. Francis Public Inquiry Report

Following publication in February 2013 of the Public Inquiry report into matters at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, the Board agreed how the Trust would consider and respond to its recommendations. The 290 recommendations would be reviewed to establish those relevant to the Trust and then assigned to a lead and executive sponsor with scrutiny and oversight committees identified. The Board would receive a six monthly progress report outlining the Trust's progress against the recommendations.

3. Women's Services Provider Alliance

The Trust's Chair updated the Board on the work of the Women's Services Provider Alliance which brought together Trusts from across the country who provided maternity care to c.5,000 women each year. On behalf of the Alliance he had recently met with representatives of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives. There had been agreement that the three bodies would collaborate where possible in order to maximise their influence in the development of women's health services.

4. Governor changes

Changes to the Trust's Council of Governors were noted, namely the appointment of Councillor Helen Casstles by Liverpool City Council and Dr Ana Alfirovic by the University of Liverpool.

5. Unannounced visit of the Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission had made an unannounced visit to the Trust on 19 February 2013. They had primarily focused on maternity services and also on the Trust's medicines management arrangements following their moderate concern issued in 2012. During initial feedback from the visiting team the assessors had been complimentary about the degree of professionalism and openness displayed by the Trust's staff. The full report of the visit was expected by the end of March 2013.

6. Staff survey

Details of the results of the Trust's 2012 staff survey were presented.

Overall our level of staff engagement had improved. Specifically, improvements were seen in the following areas:

- The number of staff having an annual appraisal
- The quality of those appraisals
- Access to Equality & Diversity training
- Staff feeling able to contribute to improvements in their areas of work
- Staff feeling they worked as part of an effective team

The Trust also performed better than other trusts in the following areas:

- The number of staff experiencing bullying or harassment at work
- The availability of hand washing materials

Areas where performance needed to improve included:

- Staff feeling pressure to attend work when feeling unwell
- Staff experiencing work related stress
- Staff working additional hours
- Staff reporting that they had witnessed potentially harmful errors or near misses
- Work pressure experienced by staff

A programme of listening events would commence with senior managers and clinicians meeting with front line staff to understand what would encourage staff to recommend the Trust as a place to receive care and a place to work.

The Trust was currently piloting an in-house 'pulse' survey to seek staff views throughout the year, the basis of which will allow a greater understanding of what gets in staff's way of providing excellent care at a local ward and department level. The 'pulse' findings will also facilitate a swift management response to areas where issues were identified by staff.

7. Mayor's Health Commission

The Chief Executive had been invited to give evidence to the Mayor's Health Commission. She will do so on two separate occasions, as the Trust's Chief Executive and also as the Chair of the Local Workforce and Education Group.

8. Genomic review update

An update in respect of the national genomic strategy was considered, in particular how it would impact on the Cheshire and Merseyside genetics service based at Liverpool Women's Hospital. A business case would be developed outlining options and identifying a preferred option for the Trust.

9. Trust performance and Health Check

Details of the Trust's service and financial performance as at January 2013 were reviewed. The Trust was reporting a financial risk rating of 4 and a green governance risk rating. There were no breaches during the month in respect of the targets set out in Monitor's Compliance Framework. The Trust was under-spent by £597,000 in month.

10. Trust Constitution

The Board received the Trust's Constitution with a number of proposed amendments, including amendments to reflect provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which came into force in October 2012. The proposed amendments would be presented for approval at a special members' meeting on Friday 8 March 2013.

A note about Liverpool Women's Board of Directors

Liverpool Women's Board of Directors currently comprises six Non-Executive Directors (including the Chair) and five Executive Directors. The Board is responsible for determining the Trust's strategy and business plans, budgets, policy determination, audit and monitoring arrangements, regulations and control arrangements, senior appointment and dismissal arrangements and approval of the Trust's annual report and accounts. It acts in accordance with the requirements of its Foundation Trust terms of authorisation. These are available on Monitor's website at <http://www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/>.

Members of the Board are:

<i>Non-Executive Directors</i>	<i>Executive Directors</i>
Mr Ken Morris (Chair)	Mrs Kathy Thomson (Chief Executive)
Mr Allan Bickerstaffe	Mrs Vanessa Harris (Director of Finance)
Mr Steve Burnett (Senior Independent Director)	Mr Jonathan Herod (Medical Director)
Ms Liz Cross (Vice Chair)	Mrs Gail Naylor (Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Operations)
Mr Ian Haythornthwaite	Mrs Michelle Turner (Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development)
Dr Pauleen Lane	

There is currently a vacancy for a Non-Executive Director (NED), to be considered by the Trust's Council of Governors which is responsible for appointing the Chair and NEDs of the Board.

If you have any queries on this summary report, please contact in the first instance Julie McMorran, Trust Secretary, at julie.mcmorran@lwh.nhs.uk / 0151 702 4033.