

**BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 2013
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Purpose

This report updates the Board on selected activities undertaken since the last meeting and draws the Board's attention to other issues of significance.

Meetings, Conferences and Events

Work is underway within NUH to consider in significant detail the recommendations and Trust response to Sir Robert Francis's profoundly important report which identifies core domains for change across all NHS Trusts to ensure the failures of Mid Staffordshire Trust are avoided at other hospitals. Our initial response to the report's publication is available on our public website at www.nuh.nhs.uk. We are giving very careful thought to each recommendation to determine what we need to change, accelerate and where new work must commence. I attended the NUH Partnership Committee in February to update our staffside leads on the Francis Report. We will of course involve our Union colleagues in our response to the report over the coming months.

As a health system across Nottingham city and Nottinghamshire I can report that we start from a position of strength to address any changes following the Francis Report publication. As a system, we have a single shared purpose, which is to provide patients and service users across the breadth of the NHS with high quality, compassionate care. NHS clinical and managerial leaders from across the region came together shortly after the report's publication to ensure our local NHS systems and processes are tested against the report's findings and recommendations.

I attended the final day of the 2013 Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Leadership programme with Anne Crompton, Corporate Clinical Lead. This was an excellent opportunity to spend time with nursing colleagues who have been part of this year-long leadership programme. Over 200 ward sisters, charge nurses, matrons and practice development matrons from Nottingham City Hospital and Queen's Medical Centre have completed this programme since it began in 2001. The RCN leadership programme recognises the crucial role of the ward sister-charge nurse in setting and monitoring standards of care and delivering high quality, compassionate care to our patients and their carers. Participants are taught to use the tools of 'observations of care' and 'patient stories' to gain greater insight into the experiences of patients and carers. During this session, participants

showcased some of their work. I also participated in a question and answer session with colleagues.

This month we received the news that our bid to run the Nottingham Treatment Centre at QMC was not successful. Circle was named the preferred bidder. We put forward our strongest possible proposal for providing high quality, efficient and effective services to the local community in the Treatment Centre for patients in Nottingham and beyond. We were naturally disappointed to hear the news, however, remain committed to work closely with Circle during this period of transition. Our primary concerns are to ensure that services to patients are maintained during this period and that our staff receive the necessary certainty regarding their future. Circle has identified NUH as their preferred supplier for staff and services, subject to contracts being agreed over the coming months. We have held a number of staff briefing sessions to update colleagues and describe the next steps ahead of the commencement of the new contract at the end of July 2013.

I spent a morning shadowing the Logistics Team at Nottingham City Hospital. Met by David Argyle, Logistics Manager, I had the privilege of spending time with the team leaders and co-ordinators of our 100-strong logistics team, who are responsible for a number of essential services to our hospitals, including pest control, transport and post room. It was fascinating to spend time on the shop floor with colleagues who lead these hugely important services. I wish to thank them for their time and for the tremendous work they do for the benefit of our patients and staff.

I joined Maria Koufali, the Trust's Deputy Director of Research and Innovation, for a visit to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Nottingham hearing Biomedical Research Unit at Ropewalk House. This is a partnership between University of Nottingham, NUH and Medical Research Council Institute of Hearing Research. I was pleased to meet and spend time with Professor Deborah Hall, Director, Research Lead (Tinnitus etiology and management), Research Lead (Sensorineural plasticity and rehabilitation) and other colleagues who make up the Nottingham hearing BRU team.

I joined Louise Scull, NUH Deputy Chair and Non-Executive Director, and Holly Scothern, Practice Development Matron, for a patient safety conversation on Gervis Pearson (Oncology) ward at Nottingham City Hospital. This programme of regular visits are one of many ways in which Trust Board colleagues gain access to ward areas to speak to frontline staff. They give staff an opportunity to share their experience of patient safety for their ward or department. Patient safety conversations started over three years ago at NUH and continue to help reinforce a strong patient safety culture, contributing to the fulfilment of our pledge to patients that they will feel cared for, safe and confident on our care.

I joined Jenny Leggott, Director of Nursing and Midwifery and Deputy Chief Executive at the opening of QMC's new-look Discharge Lounge (A Floor, South Block) which has been operational since Spring 2012 following financial investment to increase capacity and create a more pleasant environment on

the unit for patients and staff. We know that increasing the number of pre-noon discharges across the hospital will improve flow, create capacity for new patient and improve the discharge experience for patients leaving hospital. Early use of the Discharge Lounge is one of our 'five daily actions' to support early decision making and release more beds before noon for new patients. Colleagues from across the hospital were invited to visit the Discharge Lounge to raise awareness of its location, its role in improving patient experience and meet the team.

At the time of writing this report, I am due to attend the 2013 annual scientific meeting of the East Midlands Sarcoma Service to be hosted in Nottingham at the end of this month. This service is hosted by NUH in collaboration with University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust and Royal Derby Hospital.

Peter Homa
Chief Executive
February 2013