

# West Hertfordshire Hospitals

NHS Trust

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## ***Public Board Meeting,***

### ***Junior Doctors/Deanery Update Report***

Presented by: **Colin Johnston, Medical Director/Director of Patient Safety**

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This report appraises the Board of progress in relation to the action plan in place to address concerns raised following the Deanery Visit in October 2011 and the subsequent A&E inspection conducted by the CQC:

1. The Deanery Taskforce Group continues to meet every two weeks and is making good progress implementing the action plan with no actions beyond agreed deadlines.
2. The Deanery pre-visit took place on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Deanery representatives included Dr Jonathan Waller, Deputy Post Graduate Dean and Sue Agger, Senior Deanery Academic Quality. The visit went well and the visitors acknowledged the work that had been undertaken and raised no further issues of concern. They advised that members of the GMC would be in attendance for the next visit of the Deanery which is scheduled for 26 April 2012.
3. We are maintaining middle grade support in A&E and have made progress in appointing full time staff thus making us less reliant on locums. We have not yet been able to appoint to all the middle grade vacancies.
4. On 1 March 2012 we successfully appointed two new A&E Consultants which demonstrates significant progress towards our commitment to achieving a total number of 10 consultants in A&E.
5. We have recommenced a survey of junior doctors within A&E and across the Trust. Preliminary results are overwhelmingly positive, including from six of the A&E doctors. We do need to ensure all doctors are surveyed to enhance validity of the findings.
6. In relation to the other issues raised at the October visit, the Trust is now in a good position and has made significant progress in responding to the majority of concerns. There continues to be an issue about junior doctors' handover but the Deanery acknowledges that resolution of this requires not only an electronic patient tracking system, but also availability of a clinical management system. This is in development but not yet fully implemented.
7. In January we had a visit from the Paediatric School which did raise some concerns, but we have not yet had the formal report and the Department of Paediatrics has developed an Action Plan to deal with the issues raised.

Overall we believe that we should have done enough to secure a more positive response from the Deanery and if we are able to obtain a larger number of returns from A&E staff with a similar response then we should be able to provide the evidence that the CQC requires to withdraw their minor concerns.

**Colin Johnston**