

**Trust Board Meeting
04 February 2016**

Title of the paper:	Chief Executive Report	
Agenda item:	08/34	
Lead Executive:	Chief Executive Officer	
Trust objective:	Tick as appropriate: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieving continuous improvement in the quality of patient care that we provide and the delivery of service performance across all areas; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Setting out our future clinical strategy through clinical leadership in partnership and with whole system working; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creating a clear and credible long term financial strategy.	
Purpose:	The aim of this paper is to update the Board on national and local announcements and activities.	
Link to Board Assurance Framework (BAF)	N/A	
Previously discussed:		
Committee		Date
N/A		N/A
Benefits to patients and patient safety implications		
Recommendations (delete as appropriate) The Board is asked to note the report.		

Trust Board Meeting – 04 February 2016

Chief Executive's report

Presented by: Jac Kelly, Chief Executive

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report is to provide an update on key national and local announcements and activities.

2. National

Care Quality Commission's Quality Improvement Plan

- 2.1. This month's Oversight meeting received updates from the Medical and Surgical Divisions on their approach to embedding quality and risk management at Divisional level. The teams gave excellent presentations which really brought to life the work that we have been doing to strengthen our quality governance processes since the CQC inspection in April. The level of local ownership and commitment at Divisional level was really clear and was highly commended by the partner organisations who were present including the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Trust Development Authority (TDA), Quality Director, Herts Valley Clinical Commission Group (CCG), NHS England, Health Education England and Healthwatch.
- 2.2. Mike van der Watt, Medical Director, also provided an update on the progress that we have made in addressing the CQC's recommendations for the care of acutely unwell patients.
- 2.3. Again, partner organisations congratulated the Trust on the progress made and the excellent outcomes that we are able to demonstrate.
- 2.4. All in all, a very positive meeting and a real recognition that the Trust has taken great strides forward since the Inspection.

Minister visits Watford Hospital

- 2.5. We were delighted to welcome Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Care and Quality, Ben Gummer to Watford Hospital on 14 January 2016.
- 2.6. He was taken on a tour of our Accident and Emergency Department and the children's wards, along with Local MP Richard Harrington, to see some of the many improvements we have made since our Care Quality Commission inspection last year. He also met staff whose care was noted as outstanding in our children's services.
- 2.7. We also had an opportunity to talk with the Minister about our future plans to improve the environment for patients and staff and to show him why this is so important for our hospitals.
- 2.8. Following the visit, Minister Ben Gummer said that it had been very encouraging to see how well the Trust was responding to the CQC's inspection report.

3. Local

New radiology equipment

- 3.1 I'm pleased to report that following approval by the Board in January 2016 of investment in new radiology equipment; two new scanners will be arriving in May 2016. One is a state-of-the-art computed tomography (CT) scanner and the other a magnetic resonance (MRI) scanner.
- 3.2 Currently many of our patients need to be referred to other health providers, often some distance away, to have cardiac CT and cardiac MRI scans; however the cardiac imaging provided by the new machines will mean that patients requiring these tests will be able to have them locally.
- 3.3 The CT scanner will be the third at Watford Hospital and the MRI will be the second. In the case of the MRI machine, this will provide important resilience, as it will mean the hospital is not left without MRI facilities when a machine requires servicing.
- 3.4 These machines will be able to assess patients much more quickly, which means any necessary treatment can be started earlier, helping us to provide safer patient care.

Other new equipment

- 3.5 We are making significant investment in other new equipment to make our services more efficient and effective. These include the following:
- New equipment in our microbiology department to replace obsolete equipment, out-of-date practices and provide the ability to do some tests which are currently sent to outside laboratories. The equipment will give us the ability to generate patients' microbiology results faster, more accurately and cheaper;
 - Updating our old fluoroscopy unit with a state of the art new machine in March. This machine is used dynamic assessment of the digestive tract;
 - Replacing two analogue X-ray rooms in our main X-ray department at Watford with digital rooms. The new kit will be faster and provide higher quality images which will help improve diagnosis and will allow a reduction in the radiation dose.

Visit from School of Anesthetics

- 3.6 In January 2016, we had a return visit by the School of Anesthetics. Feedback from the visit was very positive. In particular they were noted that our process for learning from mistakes was one of the best they had seen.
- 3.7 This remarkable achievement is a real testament to the staff working in our anesthetics service. We are awaiting the full report but, in the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them for their hard work.

Operational pressures

- 3.8 Our hospitals continue to be very busy with unprecedented demand, especially our A&E service. Unfortunately, this resulted in the decision taken to suspend our services for adults with minor ailments a number of times over recent weeks. This decision was not taken lightly but was necessary to ensure the safety of patients.

- 3.9 A lot of staff worked long hours, and under considerable stress, not only within the A&E department, but also to help speed up discharges around our hospital. I would like to thank all staff for their relentless dedication and commitment during these very challenging times.
- 3.10 I would also encourage local people to use all the NHS services available in their area, including their GP, their local pharmacy and NHS 111, and only to use A&E for serious and life threatening injuries and illnesses.

Staff Award for Excellence

- 3.11 I am pleased to announce that the winner of our January Celebrating Excellence Staff Award was Josè Berbel, a nurse at Watford Hospital. Josè was nominated by a patient's relative for his kind manner and always striving to think of ways to make each patient's experience as good as possible.
- 3.12 I would encourage everyone to nominate a member of staff who they think has gone above and beyond the call of duty. The easiest way to do it is online via our website (www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk/award). Nomination forms are also available on wards and in clinics across our hospital sites.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Board is asked to note the report.

Jac Kelly
Chief Executive
February 2016