

## **Summary report of the meeting of the Board of Directors held on Friday 3 January 2014**

This report presents a brief summary of the issues discussed at the January 2014 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 February 2014.

A copy of the agenda and supporting reports for this meeting is available on the Trust's website.

### **1. Patient story**

The Board heard a patient story relating to its genetics service and the increasingly important use of microarray technology in pre-natal testing. It allowed patients to be given greater choices and be supported to a greater extent in respect of possible future pregnancies.

### **2. Savings programme 2014/15**

Directors reviewed progress in respect of the Trust's savings programme for 2014/15, noting that concerted effort was required up to the end of the 2013/14 financial year if the programme was to be achieved.

### **3. National reports published in respect of midwifery supervision and regulation and patient survey of maternity services**

The Board received details of a report published by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman in respect of midwifery supervision and regulation. A report outlining Liverpool Women's position in relation to this report was being prepared and would come before the Board in February 2014. The Ombudsman's report is available at <http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/reports-and-consultations/reports/health/midwifery-supervision-and-regulation-recommendations-for-change>.

Also noted was the Care Quality Commission's maternity services survey report for 2013 which showed Liverpool Women's position as largely unchanged and the Trust would work to increase its rating from 'about the same'. The report can be found at <http://www.cqc.org.uk/public/publications/surveys/maternity-services-survey-2013?cqc>.

### **4. Charitable funds annual report and accounts 2012/13**

The Board approved the Trust's charitable funds annual report and accounts for 2012/13.

### **5. Care Quality Commission unannounced visit, 2013**

Directors received details of progress against the action plan prepared following an unannounced visit by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to the Trust in July 2013. The visit had focused primarily on maternity services and none of the issues raised by the Commission had been unknown to Trust management. There remained one amber-rated action on the plan relating provision of a dedicated Registrar being allocated on the Maternity Assessment Unit. In the absence of this arrangement being in place there was robust mitigation and escalation in place with the involvement of the onsite Consultant Obstetrician.

### **6. Care Quality Commission outlier alerts**

Two outlier alerts had been issued by the CQC in respect of perinatal mortality and elective caesarean sections. Both had been reviewed by the Trust's Clinical Governance Committee which was assured the alerts were not related to clinical performance but rather to data anomalies. A strong programme of clinical audit and scrutiny was in place to demonstrate the Committee's assurance in respect of clinical performance. A hospital mortality and morbidity meeting had also been established in order to gather strong evidence about deaths on site.

## 7. Complaints, Litigation, Incidents and Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) reports for Q1 (April – June 2013) and Q2 (July – September 2013)

Details of complaints received at the Trust, litigation, incidents and PALS contacts during the first half of the financial year 2013/14 were received. The report showed that during the period, some 77 complaints were received together with 53 claims. Some 1,150 clinical incidents were recorded (it should be noted that a high number of reported clinical incidents may be an indicator of a strong safety culture) and 79 concerns were raised with the PALS service. 146 compliments were received in the same period.

## 8. Performance report

The Board received details of the Trust's service and financial performance as at November 2013. Action plans were summarised in respect of service performance which was below target with dates indicated of when the target was expected to be achieved.

In respect of its financial position the Trust was £300k behind budget as at November 2013 and was forecasting a £600k shortfall against a £1m budgeted surplus at year end. As previously reported to the Board, based on its financial position and the new system of regulation by Monitor, the Trust would likely be required to move from quarterly to monthly reporting in the near future.

## 9. Nursing and Midwifery strategy

An outline of the Trust's nursing and midwifery strategy was received which was being prepared in response to a number of high profile failings in healthcare over the past few years. It drew on the Chief Nursing Officer's strategy for nursing, midwifery and care staff 'Compassion in Practice' available at <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/compassion-in-practice.pdf>. The Trust's strategy would come before the Board in February 2014.

## 10. Chair and Non-Executive Director succession planning

Details were received in respect of progress with recruiting a new Chair for the Trust when the term of office of Ken Morris ended in August 2014, together with details of NED succession planning. The Trust's Council of Governors were leading the process.

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## 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 licence. This is 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](mailto:julie.mcmorran@lwh.nhs.uk) / 0151 702 4033.