

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BY THE CHAIRMAN

1 Introduction

Since the last meeting of the Board of Governors, the Board of Directors has held four formal monthly meetings, in June, July, August and September. An additional meeting was held in June to consider and approve the accounts and annual report for the financial year 07/08.

2 Changes to the Board of Directors – Executive Team

2.1 Caroline Wigley (Director of Organisation Development) has left the Trust to take up a post at the Strategic Health Authority. The Board of Directors thanked her for her contribution to the Trust and wished her well for the future.

2.2 Tim Jones has moved across to take over Caroline's portfolio, under the new title of Executive Director of Delivery.

2.3 Kevin Bolger has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer (Acting). Kevin is one of the Trust's Directors of Operations.

3 Business conducted by the Board of Directors

3.1 The Board of Directors considers the following standing items at each meeting:

3.1.1 New Hospital Project Report;

3.1.2 Finance & Activity;

3.1.3 Performance & Clinical Quality Indicators; and

3.1.4 Infection Control.

As the Board of Governors receive similar standing reports regarding these items, this report will focus on the other issues discussed.

3.2 New Hospital Project – In addition to the standing report, the Directors considered a number of specific issues as follows:

3.2.1 Project Variations

- a) The Board of Directors has considered and approved a number of variations to the new hospital project, mostly centred on enhancing the delivery of clinical services, at a maximum cost of £16,045,228.
- b) It was agreed that no further variations to scope should be permitted prior to completion, given their potential impact on the project as a whole.
- c) The timing of the Link Bridge was discussed and it was proposed that it be deferred to allow for a redesign of the bridge so that it does not block the land for future development.

3.2.2 Retained Estate Variation

- a) The Board discussed a number of options for the maintenance of the existing QE site following the move into the new hospital. It was agreed that negotiations with Consort as to price and scope should continue. The Final Business Case and the Draft Deed of Variation will be presented to the September Board of Directors meeting for approval.
- b) There was discussion regarding office space in the new hospital and the retained estate. It was agreed that a separate paper on an office strategy would be brought to the Board of Directors.

3.2.3 Hospital Link Road Variation

The Board of Directors discussed the arrangements for the new link road, which should ideally be finished at the same time as the Hospital entrance becomes available. In particular, there was discussion about the responsibility of Birmingham City Council for the interchange infrastructure. The Directors approved the continuation of negotiations with Consort, BNHJV and Birmingham City Council.

3.3 UHB/Xchanging Payroll Bureaux

Operationally, the payroll bureaux service appears to have stabilised. Discussions with Xchanging about the future structure of the partnership are continuing.

3.4 Patient care/patient Satisfaction

- 3.4.1 The Board of Directors has considered the results of the 2007/08 National Acute Inpatient Survey and approved the action plan proposed by the Chief Nurse.
- 3.4.2 The Board of Directors considered a report from the Chief Nurse regarding the Trust's Patient and Public Partnership Strategy. There was discussion about capturing patient feedback at a local level and it was noted that a further update would be provided in due course.
- 3.4.3 The Directors received preliminary feedback on the work of the Patient Care Task & Finish Group, discussed the action plan proposed and agreed to accept a follow up quarterly report on progress.

3.5 Annual Occupational Health & Safety Report 2007/2008

The Board of Directors considered a report presented by the Director of Organisation Development. There was discussion about the board's oversight of key issues in relation to the corporate manslaughter act requirements for a safe system of control. The report outlined certain key risk areas such as the transport of hazardous materials, the storage of dangerous chemicals and manual handling issues. There was some discussion about the increase in the number of needlestick injuries and the disparity between those reported through Occupational Health and those reported through the Incident Reporting system. Further work was being undertaken in relation to this.

3.6 Research

Together with the University of Birmingham, the Trust had hosted a successful visit by Sally Davis, the Director General of NHS Research. The opportunity to discuss the process for the creation of Academic Health Science Centres ("AHSCs") had arisen and the University and the Trust had agreed to write a joint letter to Sally Davis, formally registering their interest in becoming an AHSC, demonstrating both organisations' confidence in their ability to deliver the highest quality clinical research.

3.7 Assurance Framework Report

The Board of Directors has considered and approved a revised Assurance Framework, setting out the principal risks to the achievement of the trust's objectives and the controls and assurances in place regarding those risks. The Audit Committee has been tasked

with ongoing monitoring of the Assurance Framework.

3.8 Achievement of Targets - Quarterly Board Certification

- 3.8.1 The Board of Directors approved the quarterly submission to Monitor regarding achievement of targets and accepted that the report would result in the Trust continuing to be rated as 'amber' for governance by Monitor, due to the risks of not achieving Infection Control and Thrombolysis targets
- 3.8.2 With regard to inpatient waits (internal target), the neurosurgical expansion was now being implemented, so an improvement in this area was expected.
- 3.8.3 The Trust was still meeting the Thrombolysis target, although the small numbers involved meant that this target still represents a risk to the Trust. The introduction of 24/7 PMI was programmed for April 2009.
- 3.8.4 It was noted that the last date by which an Annual Healthcheck Inspection would be announced had now passed, and therefore that the Trust would not be inspected against its Core Standards declaration this year.

3.9 Business cases

The Board of Directors considered and approved the following business cases:

- 3.9.1 The equipping of the Fourth Procedure Room with a full imaging system on the opening of the New Hospital.

3.10 Policies

The Board of Directors approved the following policies:

- 3.10.1 Policy for Infection Prevention and Control;
- 3.10.2 Health & Safety Policy; and
- 3.10.3 Organisational & Workforce Change Policy.