

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**09 DECEMBER 2009**

**BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**1 Introduction**

Since the last meeting of the Board of Governors, the Board of Directors has held two formal monthly meetings, in September and October. There was no meeting in November, as the Board of Directors had agreed that such a meeting, originally scheduled for 19 November but then rescheduled to 26 November, should only take place if urgent matters needed to be considered by the Board prior to the meeting scheduled for 17 December. The routine monitoring reports that would normally be considered at the November meeting were circulated to Directors.

One seminar has been held, in October regarding the Trust's Clinical Strategy.

**2 Changes to the Board of Directors/Executive Team**

Sam Chittenden, Director of Strategic Developments, has left the Trust to take up a post in Brighton. Her responsibilities have been allocated amongst the Executive Team.

**3 Board of Directors' Self-assessment**

The Board of Directors undertook a self-assessment exercise on 23 September. This was very useful and a number of action points were agreed, to be monitored by the Chairman and the Chief Executive as part of their weekly meetings.

**4 Business conducted by the Board of Directors**

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

4.1.1 New Hospital Project Report;

4.1.2 Finance & Activity;

4.1.3 Performance & Clinical Quality Indicators; and

4.1.4 Infection Control.

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

#### **4.2 Results of Annual Health Check 2008/09**

The Board of Directors were pleased to note that the Trust achieved 'Excellent' for Financial Management and 'Excellent' for Quality of Services in the Care Quality Commission's Annual Health Check 2008/09.

#### **4.3 Emerging Issues**

4.3.1 The Directors discussed the interactions between the Trust and West Midlands SHA and how this compared with the experience of other FTs, both in the West Midlands and across the country.

4.3.2 The CEO reported to the Board of Directors that the Trust had met recently with the University of Birmingham to discuss strategic issues, including the AHSC bid, with regard to which both parties had agreed that any future bid should be led by the Trust and the University as principals with other organisations participating as appropriate having regard to their particular expertise and experience. The RCDM was recognised as a key partner, given that they presented a unique opportunity for research into treatment of battlefield casualties.

#### **4.4 Clinical Quality**

4.4.1 At each meeting, the Board of Directors receives a report from the Medical Director, which sets out details of the Trust's clinical quality monitoring processes and the outcomes of directors' governance visits.

4.4.2 The Directors have discussed the arrangements for security of medicines on wards and the possibility of using auto-locking cabinets and the use of pin numbers, falls and the mortality rates for emergency admitted patients.

#### **4.5 Publication Strategy for Quality Metrics**

The Board considered the proposed Trust strategy for publication of quality data, with specific regard to the selection of specialty metrics and DH indicators for publication and the associated reputational risk. The strategy was approved subject to the inclusion of a responsibility to report to the Board of Governors on quality report metrics.

#### **4.6 Care Quality**

The Directors received a report from the Chief Nurse and discussed the improvement in responses from patients to the in-house survey, the development of an outpatient experience survey and the intention to extend Back to the Floor to outpatient clinics.

#### **4.7 Safeguarding Children and Young People Annual Report 2008-09**

The Board of Directors considered the annual safeguarding report from the Chief Nurse. It was noted that the Trust only received small numbers of children as in-patients and that all policies and procedures have been reviewed.

#### **4.8 Emergency Preparedness**

4.8.1 The Board of Directors have considered two reports from the Chief Nurse regarding emergency preparedness, the first of which was an update on the Trust's State of Readiness for a Flu Pandemic. Governors have received a briefing regarding this.

4.8.2 The second report updated the Directors on general emergency preparedness and the Board approved the Emergency Preparedness Policy. The Executive Team have received a briefing on the Major Incident Plan and training will commence soon.

#### **4.9 Monitor – Downside Planning**

Monitor has required all Foundation Trusts to file a report regarding their plans for dealing with funding restraint arising as a result of the present economic downturn. The Directors received a draft of the report, which was based on the Trust's 10 year plan, which had recently been independently reviewed by KPMG. Following discussion, the Board of Directors approved the report and agreed that a refreshed version of the report should be considered by the Audit Committee in six months.

#### **4.10 Audit Committee**

The Directors received an annual report from the Audit Committee, summarising the work of the Committee during the financial year 08/09 and identifying priorities for the coming year.

#### **4.11 Board Assurance Framework – Principal Risks**

The Board of Directors reviewed the Trust's Board Assurance Framework, which sets out the principal risks to the Trust, and agreed that the Audit Committee should approve any further amendments and receive regular monitoring reports.

#### **4.12 Capital Programme 2009/10**

The Directors received the quarterly report of progress against the Capital Programme. They discussed changes to the programme, including the impact of bringing forward the Major Medical Equipment budget so as to take advantage of the early access to the new hospital and the change in funding mechanism for ICT.

#### **4.13 Strategic Transport Task & Finish Group**

The Board of Directors considered the final report from this group and agreed that the report should be circulated to the Board of Governors. It was noted that significant progress had been made towards achieving some beneficial rerouting of bus routes. Concern was expressed at the potential risk to passengers using the platform at University Station and it was agreed that this would be taken up with the train operating company. There was discussion about the various proposals for reducing car use.

#### **4.14 Other**

In addition, the Board of Directors received reports from the Investment Committee, regarding the Commercial Strategy and Investment Policy, and the Director of Finance Restatement of the 2008/09 Accounts under International Financial Reporting Standards

**Sir Albert Bore**  
Chairman

**1 December 2009**