

Board of Directors – 30 January 2024

Chief Executive's report

Purpose of the Report

This paper provides an update on current local issues and national policy developments since the last meeting. The details below are drawn from a variety of sources, including local meetings and information published by NHS England, NHS Providers, the NHS Confederation, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Analysis of the Issue

National Developments

Winter pressures, Coronavirus COVID-19 and Influenza

Winter is traditionally the busiest time for the NHS and this year is no different. We are seeing increased demand for urgent support from those with conditions such as COVID-19, influenza and norovirus, whilst we manage the impact of ongoing industrial action by junior doctors. I would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, and partners for their extra efforts during this busy period in delivering outstanding compassionate care to our patients.

Despite this pressure, it remains important for everyone to take the opportunities available to them to rest and refresh. At LPT, I am pleased we are able to offer our 'Team Time Out' initiative, which encourages all of our teams to take at least 2-3 hours out to reconnect for their health and wellbeing together. This is an important part of our culture improvement work, emphasising the important message that healthy teams spend time together. Thank you to our charity Raising Health for providing vouchers to support the initiative.

Overall COVID-19 activity has increased in most regions of the country over recent weeks. COVID-19 positivity is now at 9.2% compared to 7.2% in previous weeks. Hospital admissions due to COVID-19 have increased to 4.68 per 100k population compared to 3.89 in previous weeks. Those aged 85 years and over had the highest hospital admission rate with increases observed in all other age groups except those aged 5 to 14 years.

The prevalence of influenza ('flu') and influenza-like illness has also increased across the country in recent weeks. Influenza positivity is now at 8.9%, up from 4.9%, and the rate of hospital admissions is now at 3.46 admissions per 100k population (compared to the previous rate of 1.95). Progress with the national flu vaccination programme appears to be slower than in previous years for over 65 year olds (currently at 77%), pregnant women (currently at 30.3%) and under 65 year olds in an at-risk group (currently at 39.7%) but faster in children aged 2 or 3 (currently at 43%). Vaccination remains the best way to keep your family safe and to help you stay healthy. I encourage anyone eligible for vaccination that has not been vaccinated to access a vaccination from their GP surgery or pharmacy.

For anyone showing signs of a respiratory illness, like flu and COVID-19, advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is to try to limit contact with others as much as possible, particularly those who are more vulnerable.

For the latest information on flu and COVID-19 nationally please visit the government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-report-published>.

Ongoing industrial action by junior doctors continues to have a disruptive effect on the NHS nationally. Although extensive planning has been undertaken to establish cover arrangements during periods of industrial action, we anticipate the latest industrial action to affect routine care and to make it more difficult to discharge patients from

hospital. It is important to emphasise that people requiring urgent medical help should continue to use services as they normally would, using 999 and A&E only in life threatening emergencies and 111 online for anything else.

New Health and Social Care Secretary sets out priorities

The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins, MP, was appointed as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 13 November 2023. Shortly after her appointment, she confirmed her commitment to make health and social care services:

- faster for patients, by making it easier to get treatment locally, improving A&E performance and cutting waiting lists
- simpler for patients, with joined-up, integrated care, and simpler for staff, by reducing bureaucracy and giving them the latest technology to free up their time to care for patients
- fairer, ensuring that:
 - children are protected from health harms
 - health outcomes are not determined by where you live
 - government supports older people to maintain their independence for longer
 - government delivers a more productive NHS that is fairer for taxpayers

For more information, please visit the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-and-social-care-secretary-sets-out-priorities-for-system>

Health effects of climate change in the UK

On 11 December 2023, the UKHSA published its first report on the health effects of climate change. The report draws together the latest evidence on how our changing climate is already impacting on the nation's health and makes projections about the future based on a plausible worst case scenario.

The report makes clear that we are already seeing the health effects of increasingly extreme weather. For example, in summer 2022, the UK saw temperatures reach above 40°C for the first time on record with 3,000 excess deaths recorded across the period. UK heat-related deaths are estimated to increase by one and a half times in the 2030s and by 12 times by 2070.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the goal of limiting warming to below 1.5°C (no higher than 2°C), a figure that is widely expected to be exceeded in the next 5 to 10 years. Current global actions and policies to reduce or remove greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere put us on a collective trajectory closer to 2°C to 3°C warming, with projections of over 4°C considered a plausible worst-case scenario.

The report sets out that the greatest opportunity for health in the context of climate change comes from the potential to align health goals with the UK's decarbonisation agenda. If these health goals are embedded in decarbonisation strategies, there is the potential to generate a range of health benefits, particularly through air quality, food, housing and transport.

To access a copy of the report, please visit the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-health-effects-in-the-uk>

Government introduces legislation to regulate physician associates

On Wednesday 13 December 2023, the government introduced legislation to allow the General Medical Council (GMC) to begin the process of regulating medical associates, who are medically trained healthcare professionals that work alongside doctors to care for patients.

The GMC will set standards of practice, education and training, and operate fitness-to-practise procedures, ensuring that physician associates (PAs) and anaesthesia associates (AAs) have the same levels of regulatory oversight and accountability as doctors and other regulated healthcare professionals. The regulations will come into force at the end of 2024 and are expected to support plans to reduce pressure on frontline services and improve access for patients.

For more information please visit the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/patient-safety-boost-as-medical-associates-to-be-regulated>

Government to protect care home, hospital and hospice visiting

Following a public consultation, the government has announced that it will lay regulations as soon as possible so that visits are a 'fundamental standard of care', putting them on par with having access to food and drink and properly qualified staff.

This also means that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will have a clear mandate to check that providers are meeting these obligations, so that those in care maintain vital connections with family and friends. These changes will not only cover inpatients, but also take into account the need to enable patients attending hospice and hospital outpatient appointments, emergency department and diagnostic services to be accompanied by someone if they need or wish to be.

For more information, please visit the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-protect-care-home-hospital-and-hospice-visiting>

New research into expansion of life-saving HIV testing programme

In early December, the government announced a new research project to evaluate an expansion of the hugely successful HIV opt-out testing programme to new sites across England. The £20m project, led by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), will support the government's ambition to end new transmissions of HIV within England by 2030 and to support people to access the right care for their needs.

Following early success in extremely high prevalence areas of HIV, the testing programme is being expanded to a further 46 more emergency departments in 32 high HIV prevalence areas, including Kettering General Hospital and Leicester Royal Infirmary.

The programme has proved highly effective in identifying HIV in people unaware they had the virus and re-engaging those who are not in HIV care. It links people to medication, treatment and a care pathway which enables them to live long and healthy lives, where the virus is undetectable.

For more information please visit the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-research-into-expansion-of-life-saving-hiv-testing-programme>.

Millions more people given access to their GP records online

Figures published by NHS England in December show that more than four in five GP surgeries in England (81.1%) are now giving patients access to their health records online. Instead of needing to contact their GP surgery, this means that patients can view test results and check their consultation notes on their smartphone or online through the NHS App. (Please note that this improved access only applies to new health information that is screened at the point of entry to ensure it is suitable and understandable for patients to view.)

This development forms part of the national delivery plan for recovering access to primary care announced in May 2023. The plan aims to free up to 10 million GP appointments a year by next winter, while giving patients more

choice in how to access care. The NHS app is already used by millions of people for things like requesting repeat prescriptions, reducing the need for patients to contact their GP surgery.

You can request access to your GP record through the free NHS App or online account (download the app here - nhs.uk/helpmeapp). If you have the app and cannot see new information on your health record online, please speak to your GP surgery's reception staff and ask for access.

For more information please visit NHS England's website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/12/millions-more-people-given-access-to-their-gp-records-online/>.

New NHS guidance boost health support for new mums

In December 2023, NHS England published new guidance for GPs that will ensure comprehensive postnatal check-ups are undertaken 6 to 8 weeks after women give birth. These checks cover a range of topics including mental health, physical recovery, breastfeeding and family planning.

This new guidance also outlines conversation points for GPs to discuss breastfeeding, physical recovery, pelvic health, contraception and any preexisting medical conditions or conditions that arose during pregnancy, such as gestational diabetes. The aim is for the consultation to be tailored to what is important to the woman, rather than a checklist of questions.

For more information, please visit NHS England's website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/gp-6-to-8-week-maternal-postnatal-consultation-what-good-looks-like-guidance/>.

New NHS energy deal to cut bills by up to £100 million a year

With the cost of energy continuing to rise, the announcement by NHS England concerning a new energy deal is welcome news. From January 2024, the NHS will use its buying power to purchase energy nationally, driving down the costs by up to £100m a year.

NHS commercial leaders worked alongside Crown Commercial Service (CCS), the biggest public procurement organisation in the UK, to develop a national approach to buying energy, which means the NHS can achieve greater value for money and find efficiencies.

Over the coming weeks, CCS will contact trusts to support them with the transition to the new way of buying energy from the specific NHS energy 'basket', depending on their current energy agreement. It is anticipated that all existing CCS contracts will move to this new agreement between January and March 24. All other NHS trusts are asked to commit to joining the CCS NHS energy basket once their current contracts expire.

For more information please visit NHS England's website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/12/new-nhs-energy-deal-to-cut-bills-by-up-to-100-million-a-year/>.

CQC's new assessment process launches in the south of the country

In December, the CQC reported that it had started rolling out the new assessment framework in the 'south region' with 'early adopter' providers that volunteered to take part. The CQC expects to continue rolling out its new approach region by region introducing its new assessment framework. This is all part of the CQC's ambition to regulate in a smarter way and to respond to risk. The CQC expects the new approach to provide a better understanding of the quality of care in a local area or healthcare system. Although the approach to inspection is changing, the CQC is keen to point out that its expectations of care have not changed and its current ratings and '5 key questions' will stay central to its approach.

For further information on the new assessment approach, please visit the CQC's website:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/our-new-assessment-approach-update-december-2023>.

CQC publishes findings of its local authority assessment pilot

In December, the CQC published the findings of its evaluation into new local authority assessments. The evaluation found that the approach taken was fit for purpose. It also identified a need for further guidance to support local authorities through the assessment process.

The evaluation was based on a pilot of the new assessment approach, which saw five local authorities working closely with CQC to conduct the test. Overall, the evaluation found that:

- The quality statements at the centre of assessments were broadly right and what local authorities expected.
- The [CQC] team was not always confident in scoring evidence.
- Pilot timescales were compressed, which had a significant impact on the process.
- Local authorities found the information return time-consuming to complete and some of the requests ambiguous.
- Self-assessments were helpful for both local authorities and CQC.
- Improvements were made in gathering evidence from people's experience, but there is still opportunity to develop the approaches.
- The composition of the assessment team with internal roles complemented by the expertise of external specialist advisors and executive reviewers was viewed positively by the local authorities.
- The structure of assessment reports has been streamlined, but reports are time-consuming to produce.
- Local authorities found assessment reports valuable in re-affirming the areas of improvement required.
- The pilot process prompted improvements within local authorities.

To access a copy of the full report, please visit the CQC website: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/evaluation-la-pilot-assessments>.

CQC publishes report into addressing health inequalities in local areas

In light of its new powers to regulate and inspect Integrated Care Systems (ICS), the CQC commissioned research looking at information about how inequalities are addressed in a local area. It published a report into the findings of this research in December.

The research has shown that there is no "one size fits all approach" identified in the literature, and that different methods to address health inequalities are selected based on specific requirements of local areas and need. From what was available it is clear that tailoring the approach to different communities' needs and perspectives are key, and that there are further areas of exploration needed to understand the long-term effectiveness of methods to address health inequalities.

The CQC expects this research to help with it to develop criteria for ICS to assess how they address inequalities in their local areas.

To access a copy of the full report, please visit the CQC website: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/about-us/transparency/external-reports-research/rapid-literature-review-local-area-inequalities>.

Local Developments

Care Quality Commission Inspection

A CQC inspection has taken place this month in our acute mental health and PICU (psychiatric intensive care unit) core services, and community district nursing services. We await the report containing their findings which will be provided to the Trust in due course.

Partnership with the University of Leicester

Together with our Group Model partners at Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, we have entered a formal partnership with the University of Leicester to further develop medical teaching, training and health sciences research across Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.

This new partnership will strengthen our existing relationships with a new 'Associate University Trust' status, which is the first step towards us acquiring University Teaching Hospital status in the future. This means that our Group arrangement will now be referred to as the Leicestershire Partnership and Northamptonshire Healthcare Associate University Group.

This exciting step forward in our collaboration with the University of Leicester will help us to build on the existing teaching programmes. It will also help us to create centres of academic excellence, grow our innovation and build upon our reputation as excellent teaching and research delivery organisations.

For more information on our new partnership, please visit our website: <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/news/new-partnership-is-exciting-step-forward-for-nhs-trusts-and-university-of-leicester/>

Leicestershire Partnership and Northamptonshire Healthcare Associate University Group joins Social Value Network

Leicestershire Partnership and Northamptonshire Healthcare Associate University Group has joined the Social Value Network, hosted by NHS Arden & GEM, to support delivery of the priorities and commitments outlined in its social value charter. This builds on the our first social value charter published in October 2023 to highlight a commitment to social, environmental and economic improvements for local communities across Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire.

The charter identifies five focus areas for the Group, which have been informed by the needs of its population, patients and workforce, and identified by local partners including the Integrated Care Boards and local authorities. Full story on website <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/news/leicestershire-partnership-and-northamptonshire-healthcare-associate-university-group-joins-social-value-network/>

Our updated policies supporting parents with premature babies awarded 'The Smallest Things Employer with Heart' Chartermark

We're delighted to announce that we've been awarded with 'The Smallest Things Employer with Heart' Chartermark in recognition of our updated policies supporting the needs of our staff with babies born prematurely. We've pledged to:

1. Extend leave for parents and partners who have a premature baby (before 37 weeks' gestation) by the number of days a baby was born prior to their due date. This extended leave will be at full pay.
2. Support parents returning to work following the birth of a premature baby. We understand that returning to work can be a difficult time for parents of premature babies and that babies born too soon can have ongoing medical needs, requiring regular hospital appointments and check-ups. We'll therefore consider requests for formal and informal flexible working patterns and additional paid or unpaid leave.

The new Pregnancy, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Shared Parental Leave and Parental Leave Policy and Procedure (including loss during or after pregnancy) is now live on our public website: www.leicspart.nhs.uk/about/policies/

[Click here to read the full article about 'The Smallest Things Employer with Heart' Chartermark on StaffNet.](#)

New wards and beds open for patients

An additional five beds opened at Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital. It follows the full opening of an 18-bed ward at Loughborough Hospital at the end of October. The expansion in bed capacity comes after the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board pledged £9m for this year and next year to increase the number of community hospital beds by 52 across the eight community hospitals. A third adult ward has opened in January at Coalville Community Hospital providing rehabilitation and continued health care for up to 15 patients, again to enable them to maximise their recovery and take their next step whether that be home, residential or care home.

Extra capacity is being opened as sufficient staff are recruited. We are planning to take on an additional 227 staff which includes nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and support staff to provide care to the additional patients.

The extra capacity we have will be used particularly for patients who have completed their treatment in acute hospitals, but who require additional care to get them home or to a care home. It will also be used to prevent some patients from having to enter an acute hospital. At the same time, this will free capacity within acute hospitals, allowing them to care for more patients who are very poorly.

Triangle of Care

Following staff and carer engagement, we are pleased to share the news that our Trust has signed up to the national Carers Trust Triangle of Care (TOC) programme, to improve how we work in a three-way partnership between service users, their carer and their health and care professionals, keeping carers at the heart of our delivery. [Click here to find out more about Triangle of Care.](#)

LPT staff member receives award for Finance Professional of the Year

I am pleased to congratulate Jackie Moore, LPT Financial Controller, who has received the Healthcare Financial Management Association East Midlands Branch Finance Professional of the Year Award for her ongoing contribution to financial services within the Trust.

The HFMA Awards programme recognises the work of finance teams and individuals from across the UK. The awards cover the fundamental aspects of the finance team role: including the production of the accounts, costing, governance, training and development, as well as the vital area of innovation. Full story on website: <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/news/lpt-staff-member-receives-award-for-finance-professional-of-the-year/>

Director of Patient Safety receives Honorary Lecturer status

Our shared Director of Patient Safety James Mullins has been awarded with an Honorary Lecturer title with University of Leicester alongside his group role in supporting MSc Nursing & Midwifery students as a leadership set and lecturing on leadership and change.

Consultant psychiatrist becomes BJPsych Advances Editor-in-Chief

Congratulations to Professor Asit Biswas who has been appointed the BJPsych Advances Editor-in-Chief following the leadership of Professor Patricia Casey, who oversaw the journal for 10 years. Asit Biswas is a consultant psychiatrist with our Trust, and UK and Honorary Professor at University of Leicester.

Professor Biswas has served the RCPsych in various roles over the past 25 years, including Vice Chair and Academic secretary – Intellectual Disability Faculty, CPD Committee Chair – Trent Division, MRCPsych examiner and has helped develop CPD modules.

Relevant External Meetings attended, and Service Visits undertaken since last Trust Board meeting

Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive external meetings

December 2023	January 2024
East Midlands Alliance CEO Meetings	East Midlands Alliance CEO Meetings
LLR NHS CEO meeting	LLR NHS CEO Meeting
East Midlands Alliance lead	LLR CEO & CFOs Meeting
LLR CEO & CFOs Meeting	LLR ICB System Executive Committee -Development
LLR ICB National Meeting (Finance)	LLR NHS Chairs/CEO/COO UEC Meeting
East Midlands Alliance Board	LLR SCG meeting
NHSE Regional Director of Finance	
East Midlands CEO meeting	UHL /UHN CEO
National NHSE CEO meeting (Mental Health)	NHSE/NHS Providers Meeting
LLR Integrated Care Board	National NHSE CEO meeting (Mental Health)
LLR ICB System Executive Committee - Development	CEO, Sanius Health Limited
LLR ICB Recruitment	LLR Health and Wellbeing Partnership meeting
LLR Mental Health Shadow Collaborative Board	NHSE with Midlands CEOs
NHSE/NHS Providers meeting	Midlands and East CEO Meeting
LLR NHS Chairs/CEO/COO UEC Meeting	QSRM Pre-meet
LLR ICB System Executive Committee	LLR QSRM with NHSE
UEC Partnership Meeting	CQC Meeting
CEO/DCEO Group Catch Up	Health & Wellbeing Board (City)
LRF Executive Board Meeting	Monthly Chief Operating Officer, Managing Director, Director of Nursing NHSE call
IA Planning and Sharing of Learning - Midlands COO's/NHSE	LPT/NHFT Joint Working Group
LLR ICB System Executive Committee	Together Against Racism Workshop
Together Against Racism Workforce Group	LLR Delivery Partnership Meeting
Governance Review Meeting (with NHFT)	LLR ICB System Executive Committee
Right Care Right Person Strategic Meeting	

Service Visits by Directors

December 2023 / January 2024
Nutrition & Dietetics
School Aged Immunisation Service in Soar Valley college
Mill Lodge
Community Paediatric Team
Adult Home Enteral Feeding Service
MHCAP
Stewart House
Acute and PICU Mental Health Wards
Community Hubs
Beacon Unit
Langley Ward

Proposal

It is proposed that the Board considers this report and seeks any clarification or further information pertaining to it as required.

Decision Required

The Board is asked to consider this report and to decide whether it requires any clarification or further information on the content.

Governance Table

For Board and Board Committees:	Trust Board 30 January 2024	
Paper sponsored by:	Angela Hillery, Chief Executive	
Paper authored by:	Kate Dyer, Acting Director of Corporate Governance (LPT) Richard Smith, Director of Corporate Governance (NHFT)	
Date submitted:	18 January 2024	
State which Board Committee or other forum within the Trust’s governance structure, if any, have previously considered the report/this issue and the date of the relevant meeting(s):	None	
If considered elsewhere, state the level of assurance gained by the Board Committee or other forum i.e. assured/ partially assured / not assured:	n/a	
State whether this is a ‘one off’ report or, if not, when an update report will be provided for the purposes of corporate Agenda planning	Routine board report	
STEP up to GREAT strategic alignment*:	High Standards	
	Transformation	
	Environments	
	Patient Involvement	
	Well Governed	Yes
	Reaching Out	
	Equality, Leadership, Culture	
	Access to Services	
	Trust wide Quality Improvement	
	List risk number and title of risk	none
Organisational Risk Register considerations:		
Is the decision required consistent with LPT’s risk appetite:	Yes	
False and misleading information (FOMI) considerations:	None	
Positive confirmation that the content does not risk the safety of patients or the public	Confirmed	
Equality considerations:	None	