

Public Trust Board – 26 March 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, COVID-19, Flu, Measles and Tuberculosis

The pressure on NHS hospitals this winter continues with thousands more patients in hospital compared to the same time last year with norovirus and flu cases at their highest levels. NHS National Medical Director, Professor Sir Stephen Powis said: "It is clear that the significant pressure the NHS has been experiencing this winter is not letting up, with thousands more beds occupied and three times as many flu patients as last year, on top of continued high demand for ambulance services and NHS 111".

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised the Government on the Spring COVID-19 vaccination programme; this includes the recommendation that the vaccine be offered to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit. This may include

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-advises-on-eligible-groups-for-2024-spring-covid-19-vaccine>

The rise in the spread of Measles is particularly evident across unvaccinated populations, and in nurseries and schools. In the 4 weeks since 29 January 2024, there have been 183 laboratory confirmed measles cases. The West Midlands accounted for the majority of these (43%, 79 of 183), mostly in Birmingham, although case numbers in that region have now stabilized at a high level. 19% (34 of 183) of cases have been in the North West, 14% (26 of 183) in London, 10% in the East Midlands (18 of 183) and 8% (15 of 183) in Yorkshire and the Humber.

There has been an increase in the proactive work on-going to contain the spread of the disease and encourage communities to urgently take up the offer of an MMR vaccine. In January, the UKHSA declared a national incident. This is an internal mechanism within the Agency signalling the growing public health risk and to enable the Agency to focus on limiting further spread of the outbreak including additional work to help protect other areas at greatest risk.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measles-outbreak-could-spread-warns-ukhsa-chief-executive>

Alongside the increase in Measles, there has also been a rise in cases of Tuberculosis with a 10.7% increase in 2023 compared to 2022 which means that cases are now above the pre COVID-19 pandemic rate. While England remains a low incidence country for TB, the current trajectory takes the UK further from the pathway to meet World Health Organization (WHO) 2035 elimination targets. Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection that most frequently affects the lungs, which is when it is infectious. Symptoms include:

- a cough that lasts more than 3 weeks
- high temperature
- drenching night sweats
- loss of appetite
- weight loss

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tb-cases-rise-in-england>

Extra Funding for early support hubs

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced extra funding for early support hubs designed to support children and young people to receive better mental health support. The number of hubs are being expanded from 10 announced last year, to 24 across the country. The services provided by these hubs include psychological therapies, specialist advice and wider issues which may affect a young person's mental health, including sexual health, exam worries, jobs, drugs, alcohol and financial worries. Those receiving additional fundings in the East Midlands include Centre 33 in Cambridge, CHUMS Charity in Bedfordshire, the Mancroft Advice project in Norwich and the People Potential Possibilities in Derbyshire.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-funding-for-early-support-hubs>

Valproate Safety Measures

From the 31 January 2024, new regulatory measures have been put in place to reduce the known harms from Valproate (Epilim, Depakote, Convulex, Episenta, Epival, Kentlim, Orlept, Sodium Valproate, Syonell, Valpal, Belvo & Dyzantil); including the significant risk of serious harm to the baby if taken during pregnancy and the risk of impaired fertility in males. Whilst the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has been clear to advise that no one should stop taking valproate without advice from their healthcare professional, the new measures will restrict the use of this drug in new patients (male or female) younger than 55 years, unless two specialists independently consider and document that there is no other effective or tolerated treatment, or there are compelling reasons that the reproductive risks do not apply. For many patients, other effective treatment options are available. The MHRA urges patients to attend any offered appointments to discuss their treatment plan and to talk to a healthcare professional if they are concerned.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-valproate-safety-measures-apply-from-31-january>

Wearable 24-hour infusion for advanced Parkinsons

A new treatment option is being rolled out on the NHS in England over the coming weeks (from 27 February 2024) and it is expected that nearly 1,000 patients will be eligible across the country. The new treatment called foslevodopa–foscarbidopa is a portable drug infusion that is gradually released around-the-clock to help better control movement-related symptoms and will support those whose condition is no longer responding to their oral medicines.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/02/nhs-rolls-out-wearable-24-hour-infusion-for-advanced-parkinsons/>

Update on National review of Mental Health Inpatient Services

A review into mental health inpatient services has been commissioned following a special review undertaken by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) into Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, where Valdo Calocane was treated for paranoid schizophrenia before he killed Barnaby Webber, Grace O'Malley-Kumar and Ian Coates. Pledging to help provide victims' families with answers, the government asked the CQC to report on Calocane's care and other Nottinghamshire mental health services including Highbury Hospital and Rampton Hospital.

The independent review of mental health inpatient services will be undertaken by the Healthcare Services Safety Investigations Body (HSSIB) which published its terms of reference in January 2024 in a bid to help improve patient, staff and community safety.

The aims of the investigation include:

- learning from inpatient mental health deaths
- improving patient safety
- helping to provide safe care during transition from children and young people to adults in mental health services
- creating conditions for staff to deliver safe and therapeutic care

The findings from the HSSIB investigation, which will include consideration of patient and staff safety regarding allegations of sexual assault and rape, will be published over the course of the year to drive improvements in patient safety and NHS mental health services. The investigation will conclude by the end of 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-review-into-mental-health-inpatient-services>

Roll out of 'Martha's Rule'

In February 2024, the head of the NHS announced the rollout of 'Martha's Rule' in hospitals across England from April this year, enabling patients and families to seek an urgent review if their condition deteriorates. This is a patient safety initiative which will be rolled out to at least 100 NHS sites and will give patients and their families round-the-clock access to a rapid review from an independent critical care team if they are worried about their or a loved one's condition.

Thirteen-year-old Martha Mills died from sepsis at King's College Hospital, London, in 2021, due to a failure to escalate her to intensive care and after her family's concerns about her deteriorating condition were not responded to promptly.

As part of Martha's Rule, health staff at participating hospitals will also formally record daily insights and information about a patient's health directly from their parents or families making sure any changes in behaviour or condition are noted by the people who know the patient best

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/02/nhs-to-roll-out-marthas-rule/>

Women's health priorities

In January 2024 the Health Secretary outlined several new priorities for the year ahead for women's health which form part of the Women's Health Strategy for England. These priorities include menstrual problems, the menopause and maternity care. There will also be support for domestic and sexual abuse victims. This builds on the developments made during the first year of the strategy where half a million women in England have seen the cost of HRT reduce. The HRT prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs) are part of a wider scheme of government initiatives to bolster support for women experiencing negative menopause symptoms. Women's health hubs are also being introduced in local areas to improve access and the quality of care in services for e.g. contraception, pelvic pain etc. There is also a dedicated women's health section of the NHS website which can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/womens-health>.

Last month, the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Integrated Care Board's Women's Transformation Manager presented at our Strategic Executive Board to outline plans for the local implementation of the women's strategy, and the LLR Women's Transformation Programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-announces-new-womens-health-priorities-for-2024>

Domestic Care Workforce Pathway

In January 2024, the Government outlined plans to improve the career prospects of the domestic social care workforce through training, qualifications and a clearer, care career path which will help to recruit and retain staff in this field. The Department of Health and Social Care has set out plans for there to be a national care career structure with defined roles and professional development which will support staff to gain the right skills and expertise. There will also be a new accredited qualification and funding for apprenticeships and training in the latest information technology leading to a new digital leadership qualification.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plans-to-develop-the-domestic-care-workforce>

Industrial Action

There remains an ongoing dispute between junior doctors and government, with the latest strike action by junior doctors taking place between 24 to the 28 February 2024.

We have now seen over a year of industrial action across the NHS and staff continue to work hard to provide patients with the best possible care under the circumstances. Industrial action has impacted over 1.3 million hospital appointments across the NHS.

The previous round of industrial action by junior doctors in January saw over 113,000 hospital appointments disrupted and at least 23,000 staff absent day on weekdays, and over 8,000 on weekends due to industrial action.

Whilst the NHS is asking patients to choose services appropriately during industrial action it is really important that patients who need urgent medical care continue to come forward as normal, especially in emergency and serious life-threatening cases – when someone is seriously ill or injured, or their life is at risk.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/information-for-the-public-on-industrial-action/>

Celebrating exceptional NHS Staff

From the 29 February 2024, MPs begin nominating individuals and teams in their local areas for the NHS Parliamentary Awards for 2024 where staff can be recognised for going above and beyond to deliver excellence in healthcare. This year there are 10 award categories, including the new Excellence in Education and Training Award, which recognises a team or individual that is leading the way in supporting the delivery of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan through innovative approaches to education. Nominations will close on the 19 April 2024 and those shortlisted will be invited to a ceremony in Westminster on 1 July 2024.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/02/mps-begin-nominations-to-celebrate-exceptional-nhs-staff/>

Local Developments

Care Quality Commission Inspection

A CQC inspection was undertaken in January 2024 in our acute mental health and PICU (psychiatric intensive care unit) core services, and community district nursing services. At the time of writing, we await the report containing their findings which is due to be provided to the Trust soon.

Mental Health Urgent Care Hub opening

We were delighted to open refurbished facilities of the Mental Health Urgent Care Hub at the Bradgate Mental Health Unit on 1 February. The Mental Health Urgent Care Hub is the assessment centre for people who need an urgent mental health response and an alternative for individuals who may have needed to attend the Emergency Department (ED). It was first opened during the Covid pandemic as a safe space with urgent mental health needs away from the ED and to support colleagues and system partners in the ED who were working hard to manage urgent Covid cases. Patients and staff have been working closely together to design a space that is welcoming and puts people at ease.

Nursing staff recognised for exceptional care

Two more of our staff have been awarded the prestigious international Daisy awards. Lisa Healey-Lyman, community learning disability nurse, and Mary Corner, nursing associate, were nominated for the award for the care they provided to a patient in a care home. Their nomination reads: “These nurses have been visiting the home to support a resident who moved to us after a safeguarding was raised due to their vulnerability and the situation he was in. Over the course of the visits, these nurses also supported the home in being able to understand in more depth how we can support this gentleman.”

Jobs and careers event a huge success

Around 2000 people attended our Health and Care Jobs and Careers event on Saturday 9 March, which was co-ordinated by LPT. Staff from teams and services from across our Trust were inundated with enquiries about current vacancies and also career prospects for both patient-caring and support roles. Also on hand were staff with details on our health and wellbeing and equality, diversity and inclusion offers, our charity Raising Health and our recruitment team provided hundreds of people with advice on how best to complete job applications.

New ward opens at Coalville Community Hospital

We have opened a third adult ward at Coalville Community Hospital, providing rehabilitation and continued health care for up to 15 patients to enable them to maximise their recovery and enable them to take their next step whether that be home, residential or care home. The hospital already had a dedicated stroke ward, and a general ward providing sub acute, rehabilitation and end of life care.

The 15 beds at Coalville come on top of a new ward in Loughborough and an additional five beds we opened in Hinckley this winter to deal with increased patient numbers.

Vaccine boost for teenagers

Our School Aged Immunisation Service are rolling out vaccines to all Year Nine pupils (aged 13 and 14) across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The 3-in-1 teenage booster protects against tetanus, diphtheria and polio, while the meningitis ACWY vaccine protects against meningitis and septicaemia.

Staff survey

Around 3400 staff (54%) shared their views in the annual staff survey, which is above the national average response rate of 52%. The response rate from our Bank staff was 30% - an increase of 10 points from last year.

I am pleased to say that we have seen all of our people promise indicators rise from last year, with six out of the nine being above the national average. This shows that staff experience of working at LPT continues to improve. This was echoed in a significant increase in staff saying they would recommend LPT as a place to work. Of the 101 questions asked, 79 have moved up, with several areas above the national average. We have more to do in some areas, but I am confident we are moving in the right direction and staff are sharing their views with us.

NHS Providers Strategy Directors' Network Chair.

David Williams, our group director of strategy and partnerships, has been elected as NHS Providers Strategy Directors' Network Chair. He said "Working for community and mental health trusts has taught me the importance of partnership working in our local communities and integrating health and care together. I hope I can bring this experience to the network and help us all find solutions to the many challenges that the NHS faces now and will continue to face for the next few years."

Apprenticeship event

Almost 200 staff took the opportunity to find out how they can transform their career through an apprenticeship. They attended an event in February to find out more about the wide range of apprenticeships we offer, including in nursing, business, admin, and physiotherapy. Apprentices at LPT can study up to a master's degree level, with funding and paid time off to study.

CMHTs transformation

The transformation of the community mental health teams (CMHTs) into 'mental health neighbourhood teams' has gone live. The Hinckley adult CMHT and the Hinckley and Bosworth older people's CMHT were the two pilot sites. The first area of change chosen for testing was "the new front door" for routine referrals. The "new front door" describes how people access mental health support within our integrated neighbourhood teams, or planned treatment and recovery teams. The aim of the transformation is to improve the patient experience.

Veteran Aware accreditation

We are pleased to report the Trust's Veteran Aware accreditation was renewed by the Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA). The Veteran Aware status is only awarded to Trusts who provide the best care for veterans and their families, to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in the care they receive.

The Trust was first accredited as Veteran Aware in June 2019 and was then re-accredited again in July 2022. Since its initial review, the VCHA commented it was "evident there has been significant work undertaken," by the Trust to improve its offer to those from military backgrounds who receive support from their services.

Medical trainee awards

I was delighted to attend the Medical Trainee awards which took place on Friday 19 January at the Glenfield Education and Training Centre – the first time the awards have been held in person since 2019. At any one point, LPT has more

than 100 Medical Trainees from different grades. Their contribution to the Trust is essential, and recognition of excellence - and rewarding it - improves the trainee’s experience in LPT and is a great morale boost.

Trainees are nominated by consultants across the Trust on their professional standards, clinical skills and governance, teaching, and research. Nominations came in three rounds across 2023, with shortlisting taking place in December. I was inspired to hear of the wonderful stories of our winners and nominees. Thank you to them all.

Relevant External Meetings attended since last Trust Board meeting

Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive external meetings

February 2024	March 2024
LLR Health & Wellbeing Partnership Meeting	UEC Partnership
SCG/IMT Sync Meeting	LLR Systemwide Freedom to Speak Up
UEC Partnership	Inclusive Leadership and Accountability Conference
LLR ICB System Executive Committee – Development Session	SYNC Meeting
LLR LHRP	HWB EoL Development Session – Leicestershire
Health & Wellbeing Board – Leicestershire	LLR ICB System Executive Committee
UEC Gold Calls LLR	Health and Wellbeing Board – Leicester City
CEO Derbyshire Healthcare Meeting	NHS Briefing for MPs
REACH Network Leads with NHFT	Midlands Workshop: Implementing the NHSE Operating Framework
CEO Centre Mental Health	Regional Roadshow: Planning & Priorities for 2024/25 - Midlands & East Regions
East Midlands Alliance Leads	East Midlands Alliance Lead
LLR Integrated Care Board Meeting	EMA Board 07/03
UEC with NHFT	CFO-CEO LLR
Mental Health Programme Board and Independent Advisory & Oversight Group Q3 08/02	UEC Presentation – Teneo
CEO Lincolnshire Partnership Trust	Whistleblowing: procedure, policy and good practice webinar
CEO/CFO Meeting	LLR ICB System Executive Committee – Development Session
East Midlands Alliance CEO Meeting	System flash planning – National Finance Meeting NHSE
LLR NHS CEO meeting	Midlands and East CEOs
ICB Local Authority CEO’s	NHS Providers Network Meeting
Shared leadership working discussion with NHS Providers	LLR NHS CEO meeting
CFO/CEO and Chairs Finance Meeting	International Women’s Day 2024: Inspire Inclusion Panel Discussion
LLR MH Shadow Collaborative	
National Leadership Forum	
COS 2 nd Annual Event – Mapping Leicester	
Peers Sponsorship NHS Providers Dinner	
CEO LLR ICB	
CEO East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust	
NHS Providers & CEO Advisory Group	
LLR ICB System Exec Committee	
LPT Deloitte Well Led Review - Interview	
MH Shadow Collaborative Group – Away Day	
Joint Trust Board Development Workshop with NHFT	

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 26 March 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:	14 March 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	
	Organisational Risk Register considerations:	List risk number and title of risk
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	