

TRUST BOARD

Date of Meeting: 26/02/2013	Agenda Item No: 6.1	Enclosure: 8
Intended Outcome:		
For noting	For information	For decision ✓
Title of Report: Chairman Overview		
Aims: Key Business of the Trust Board		
Executive Summary:		
To consider the key business of the Trust Board as it moves forward into the final stages of the Acquisition by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust		
Specific implications and links to the Trust's Strategic Aims:		
Ensure we provide high quality, safe and effective care for all our patients including meeting essential standards of safety and quality as set out by the CQC		✓
Develop a viable integrated clinical strategy for secondary care services which is sustainable and affordable		✓
Develop a new healthcare facility in West Cumbria that is fit for the 21st century		✓
Achieve sustainable financial balance through the delivery of the Trust's internal Cost Improvement Programme, securing a viable contract income from our GP commissioners and contributing to the system wide cost reductions		✓
To develop and implement a successful merger or acquisition plan that enables the Trust to become part of an existing NHS Foundation Trust		✓
Recommendations:		
The Board is requested to approve this report.		
Prepared by: Ann Farrar Interim Chief Executive	Presented by: Ian Gordon Chairman	

1. Introduction

To consider the key business of the Trust Board as it moves forward into the final stages of the Acquisition by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

2. Setting the Strategic Direction and Culture and Ensuring Delivery

2013 will be an important year for North Cumbria as we should conclude the Acquisition process. During this time the key focus of the Trust Board business will be to focus on:

- Ensuring we have the right corporate strategy and continuing to deliver an open, transparent and supportive culture
- Ensuring we have the right clinical strategy
- Ensuring delivery of higher standards, by key milestones, by supporting our staff
- Work in partnership with Northumbria colleagues to meet the key steps in the Acquisition Process.
- Building stronger working relationships with our stakeholders to develop whole system solutions where appropriate

The Chief Executive report provides the necessary detail that underpins the delivery of the above.

3. Being Visible and Engaging with Staff

I have welcomed the opportunity to meet you all individually and reflect on how we do business going forward. I have also taken the opportunity to write to staff (letter enclosed) and set out my ambition for the year ahead. I look forward to continuing to meet and seek the feedback from staff.

4. Recommendation

The Board is asked to approve the progress in this report.

Ian Gordon
Chairman
February 2013

Welcome message from our new Chairman, Ian Gordon

I've been here a week now. I've visited the A&E units, the Emergency Assessment Units and a few wards, at both WCH and the CIC. I've got a lot to learn, but I have been very encouraged by my first impressions, and especially by the optimism that I have found towards the prospect for improving our services and our working lives through the merger with Northumbria Healthcare.

My wife, Ali, and I moved to Cumbria seven years ago. In that time we have both been referred for services at the Infirmary, and we were both pleased at our experience. I also have elderly parents living in Northumberland, who have had a lot treatment and excellent care from Northumbria Healthcare. So you will understand if I declare an interest in ensuring that the merger goes through swiftly and sustainably.

My first priority, obviously enough, is to learn quickly about how our hospitals work. Over my first three weeks, I shall be taking stock – about the operation of the Board, about the process of the acquisition, and about the challenge facing the leadership and management here at NCUHT. In March, I will want to review our relations with our patients and the local population, and with the other parts of the NHS. When all is said and done, we must work collaboratively with the GPs, the community hospitals, the social care services and with the voluntary sector if we are to ensure that our patients get the best service.

It has been a salutary reminder of our basic purpose as a hospital trust, to have had to read the Francis report at the end of my first week. Despite our "systems", the NHS did fail some patients. At the heart of that failure was a culture of secrecy and fear, complacency about poor service, and a focus on the wellbeing of the institution rather than the people we serve.

We shall be giving you a chance to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Francis Report. That will provide a basis for developing our collective response to the Report as a whole, which is the first recommendation addressed to all organisations within the NHS family. We need everyone to recognise the signs when something may be going sour, and to have the courage to speak up and challenge wrong behaviours.

Finally, although I am here only as an interim Chair, until the acquisition is complete, may I say that I am really looking forward to working with you. I hope to meet as many of you as possible. Ann Farrar kindly arranged for nearly 20 pictures of various staff groups to be put up on the walls of my office, as I arrived. I have set myself the challenge of finding the 34 members of our staff who feature in those photographs.

Ian Gordon
Interim Chairman