

Report to the Meeting of the Trust Board of Directors Held in Public

Date of Meeting: 23 July 2013

Enclosure: 1

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| Title of Report | Chairman's Overview |
| Author | Ian Gordon, Interim Chairman |
| Executive Lead | n/a |
| Responsible sub-committee | n/a |
| Date of paper | 17 July 2013 |
| Executive Summary | <p>I write this at the end of a day of intense media interest in this Hospital Trust. Tuesday 16 July saw publication of the outcome of the Keogh Review of hospital mortality at 14 trusts (9 of them FTs) across England.</p> <p>For North Cumbria, the Keogh Review found evidence of some quality failings, and urged that we take urgent action. They noted that the Trust had responded positively to the review process, with some urgent issues already addressed; and recommended that the Trust should prepare a single patient safety and improvement plan, with clear accountabilities and timescales. A follow-up summit will be held probably in the autumn.</p> <p>The Review identified failings including: "inadequate staffing levels, excessive locum cover, shortfalls in learning from serious incidents and never events and poor infection control and prevention practices which might indirectly impact on the quality of care and treatment being provided to patients at the Trust". They also noted sustained failings in "governance arrangements to ensure the adequate maintenance of the estate and equipment".</p> <p>They recognised the impact of the interim management support that has been provided from Northumbria Healthcare. The Government announced, however, that this Trust, with 10 others, would be subject to "special measures", which we understand will entail closer supervision by the TDA and by the regulators, and a mentoring relationship with a neighbouring and successful Trust. Further details of the implications for the merger with Northumbria are addressed in Board papers.</p> <p>This Trust welcomed our inclusion in the Keogh Review, as a valuable learning experience. It has certainly been such an</p> |

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| | experience, and we must now work together to make sure that our patients do not ever again have the same grounds for doubt about the safety and quality of care that they will receive here. |
| Assurance Framework reference | n/a |
| Level of assurance | n/a |
| Recommended changes to risk rating (if applicable) | n/a |
| Legal implications/ regulatory requirements | n/a |
| Actions required by the Board | The Trust Board are requested to approve the information provided within the report. |