

TRUST BOARD

Date of Meeting: 28/5/2013	Agenda Item No: 1	Enclosure: 1
Intended Outcome:		
For noting	For information	For decision ✓
Title of Report: Chairman's Overview		
Aims:		
<p>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</p>		
Executive Summary:		
<p>As expected, May has been a difficult month, if not always for the reasons we could foresee.</p> <p>It was very disturbing to read the report of the Care Quality Commission (CQC), published on 8 May, following their visits at Cumberland Infirmary (CIC) in March. Their report on the West Cumberland Hospital (WCH) is due shortly, and we have to be ready for similar findings.</p> <p>That CQC report coincided with the first visit of the Keogh Rapid Responsive Team (7-9 May). We were the first of the 14 hospital trusts to be visited, in recognition of our timetable for the acquisition. The Keogh team are planning further unannounced visits and a Risk Summit before they produce their report, probably in July.</p> <p>These coincident scrutinises have brought into the open stories both of unacceptable patient experiences, and of the pressures staff have felt arising from the constant demand for efficiency savings. We need to face up to that evidence if we are to tackle the challenge of making real change in the culture and behaviours across our Trust. That is one lesson that is already very clear from the Francis Enquiry.</p> <p>The merger with Northumbria offers us a way forward, but reorganisations, by themselves are never going to be the whole answer. We need to define and then tackle in a practical and urgent way, the specific problems we find- which is exactly what we are trying to do, with help from Northumbria.</p> <p>The emphasis over the next few weeks will shift, as we prepare for Monitor's review of the case for this acquisition. One early step will be completion of the Transaction Agreement, on which I expect to report to the Board at the end of June.</p>		

Finally, it is worth observing that, over the past month, we have learnt that we are not alone in the pressures that have been experienced these past months, in our Accident and Emergency Departments. That is now clearly seen as a nationwide issue, but we will still have to look for solutions to our own problems with patient flows here within the Cumbrian health economy.

Specific implications and links to the Trust's Strategic Aims:

We deliver excellent clinical outcomes along closely integrated pathways	✓
We provide excellent patient-centred services	✓
We deliver excellence in safety, quality and regulatory compliance	✓
We deliver efficient care and work within budgets	✓

Recommendations:

Board members are requested to approve the report.

Prepared by:

Ian Gordon
Interim Chairman

Presented by:

Ian Gordon
Interim Chairman