

Meeting / Committee:	Board of Directors	Meeting Date:	Tuesday 29 October 2013
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This paper is for: (Only 1 column to be marked with x as appropriate)	Action/Decision	Assurance	Information X
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Title:	Chief executive's report
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Purpose:	The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Directors with an executive summary of our key strategic objectives, national policy and organisational issues
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Summary:	<p>The paper provides information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor • Commissioners' visit to the trust • Care Quality Commission visit • Trust proposed name change • Winter planning – flu campaign • £250,000 research fund – heart surgery • Day surgery procedures – Redcar Primary Care Hospital • Awards and achievements
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Prepared By:	Prof Tricia Hart, chief executive and Amanda Marksby, head of communications	Presented By:	Prof Tricia Hart Chief executive
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Recommendation:	The Board of Directors is asked to note the contents of the report
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Implications (mark with x in appropriate column(s))	Legal	Financial	Clinical X	Strategic X	Risk & Assurance X
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1. MONITOR

This month, our independent regulator Monitor launched an investigation after we failed to meet the national 18-week referral to treatment time target (RTT) for three quarters in the past 12 months (seven months in total).

This was part of an agreed plan – signed off by the Board of Directors – to continue to work through the backlog of patients who had been waiting a long time for treatment due to the exceptionally busy – and prolonged - winter period we had this year and has been discussed very openly at previous Board meetings.

While action plans are in place to try and bring the trust back into compliance, failing this target for a third quarter has meant Monitor has now opened a formal investigation into whether we have breached the conditions of our licence to provide healthcare services.

A rise in reported 'never events', coupled with our challenging *Clostridium difficile* target for 2013/2014, is also being looked at alongside our governance processes. I have now asked the following people to lead on these key pieces of work:

- **RTT** – director and deputy directors of operational services - Susan Watson and Ingrid Walker
- **Clostridium difficile** – director of nursing and quality assurance Ruth Holt, assistant director of nursing/deputy director of infection prevention & control Alison Peevor and chief of service for the academic division/lead physician infectious diseases Dr Richard Bellamy
- **Never events** - deputy chief executive/medical director Professor Rob Wilson and deputy director of quality assurance Ruth James

No decision has been taken at this stage by Monitor about whether regulatory action is required and an announcement about the outcome of the investigation will be shared in due course.

2. COMMISSIONERS' VISIT TO TRUST

The Board is aware our lead commissioners visited the trust on Tuesday 15 October. Feedback from those who took part was very positive and they made the following observations from the staff focus groups:

- There is a strong, open reporting culture
- Staff are encouraged to challenge each other
- There is a culture of openness and transparency
- Staff are committed and patient focussed
- Staff had ideas for improving patient flow and targeted improvement for the patient journey
- The level of innovation in staff is high

This is excellent feedback and demonstrated how passionate our staff are about the care they provide to patients and that transparency and openness is actively promoted within the organisation. A number of actions were identified following the visit and these will be progressed and shared with the Board in the coming weeks.

3. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION VISIT

Earlier this month, Langbaugh House was visited by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as part of its inspections of hospitals and health services in England to ensure they are meeting national standards.

The two assessors particularly focused on two key areas:

- **Outcome 4: Care and welfare of people who use services** - People should get safe and appropriate care that meets their needs and supports their rights.
- **Outcome 16: Assessing and monitoring the quality of service provision** – The service should have quality checking systems to manage risks and assure the health, welfare and safety of people who receive care.

They also looked at systems on medical equipment, inventory on training and carried out environmental assessments and all the evidence presented was well received. Visits were also paid to the diabetes team, the community weight management team and staff involved in smoking cessation.

I am pleased to report the CQC assessors provided very positive feedback, particularly about our staff and the care they are giving to patients. Further visits are likely before the end of this financial year, possibly in some of our community settings such as East Cleveland Primary Care Hospital and the One Life Centre.

4. TRUST PROPOSED NAME CHANGE

After discussions at the Board, we formally launched our consultation to change the trust's name to South Tees Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to reflect the services we now provide to our local communities.

Information has gone out to all our key stakeholders, including our members, governors and local authority and healthcare partners, and staff can also fill in a short survey and give us their views.

Other ways to feedback include the trust's website at www.southtees.nhs.uk or by email at foundation.trust@stees.nhs.uk and we will consider all of the comments made once the consultation period ends on 23 December before making any decision.

5. WINTER PLANNING – FLU CAMPAIGN

The trust's flu vaccination campaign, which began this month, has got off to a great start with **39%** of healthcare workers taking up the vaccination in the first few weeks.

Figures at the start of the week of 21 October showed 3,064 healthcare workers had been vaccinated including 49% of doctors, 33% of nurses, midwives and health visitors, 37% of other professionally qualified and 43% of support to clinical staff.

Our target is to achieve 75% uptake and the occupational health team is working hard with our flu champions to build on this encouraging start, particularly targeting staff with direct patient contact.

6. £250,000 RESEARCH FUND – HEART SURGERY

Heart surgeons have been awarded £250,000 to undertake a leading-edge research project comparing keyhole surgery to conventional surgery for patients requiring aortic valve replacements – the second most common type of heart operation.

Funded by the National Institute of Healthcare Research, the MAVRIC trial will start in January and run for three years with the James Cook being the only hospital in the UK to take part.

Up to 4,000 patients who require aortic valve replacement each year also need a postoperative blood transfusion. If the cardiothoracic team can show the keyhole approach reduces the need for blood transfusions and decreases the amount of time patients have to spend in hospital, this could potentially save the NHS up to £1.4million a year.

This new approach also has the potential to reduce the risk of post-operative lung injury and organ dysfunction as well as reducing the pressure on blood transfusion services.

Patients who agree to take part in the trial will be randomly selected to receive either the new keyhole procedure or the more conventional treatment. It is the first time the heart unit has been awarded this amount of money and their research will benefit future heart patients across the country.

7. DAY SURGERY PROCEDURES – REDCAR PRIMARY CARE HOSPITAL

The first day surgery procedures were carried out at Redcar Primary Care Hospital earlier this month by surgeons Lawrence Ajekigbe and Chelliaya Ramanathan, which ties in with trust and CCG's vision to provide care closer to home.

Up to seven minor surgical lists will be held every week in Redcar with a view to extending this in the future and patients with skin disorders – some who may need skin grafts – were some of the first to have their treatment locally.

Patients with more complex conditions will continue to have their surgery at James Cook and the move has freed up a theatre suite in the accident and emergency department, providing more capacity for emergencies.

The trust has been working closely with South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to make greater use of Redcar Primary Care Hospital and we'll continue to look at where we can make further improvements to benefit the local population.

8. AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

I am delighted to share with colleagues some recent awards and achievements both at regional and national level.

- The trust's state-of-the-art radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients - stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (or SABR) – received national recognition when the team, led by consultant oncologist Dr Clive Peedell, won the prize for efficiency in medical technology at the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Efficiency Awards in London.

This technique uses the latest developments in radiotherapy technology to deliver very high doses of radiation to tumours in the chest with millimetre precision and

has increased cure rates for patients as well as reducing side effects. Treatment times have also been reduced by up to a fifth for some patients.

- The Society and College of Radiographers has named the radiotherapy treatment floor staff team as Northern regional team of the year for 2013. The team was nominated by treatment floor superintendent, Claire Huntley, for working tirelessly over the last number of years to maintain high standards of patient care and treatment delivery during a period of rapid change. Three members of the team will collect the award at a ceremony in the House of Commons on 6 November.
- The Teesside Cystic fibrosis service for children and young people has been accredited with national centre status by the Cystic fibrosis Trust and specialist commissioners following a peer review in September 2012. Care is provided to patients from diagnosis until the age of 18 when they are supported in their transition to adult care.
- Head of midwifery Yvonne Regan, consultant anaesthetist Dave Murray, specialist pain nurse Joanne Angus and neuro-radiographer Brendon Whitehead have all been shortlisted for North East Leadership Academy awards.
- Finally, a reminder that the finals of the Nursing Times Awards will be held tomorrow (Wednesday 30 October). The trust has five teams and individuals shortlisted for six awards – more than any other NHS trust – and they include:
 - **Patient safety improvement** - for reducing the use of antipsychotic drugs for patients with dementia
 - **Nurse leader** - Sharon Poskitt, senior nurse, neurosciences
 - **Nurse leader** - Audrey Kirby, senior nurse, speciality medicine
 - **Enhancing patient dignity** – Real life patient stories video project
 - **Cardiovascular service** - For the integration of specialist nurse teams
 - **Team of the year** – Capturing patient experience using video technology (jointly with Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Trust)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE - PROFESSOR TRICIA HART
