Sustainability Committee

Key summary points for the board from the meeting of the Sustainability Committee held on 28th March 2017.

Productivity improvement project across outpatients, theatres and radiology
A presentation from Meridian described their findings following a three week scoping review of services in the Unscheduled Care Group and Radiology. The improvement potential from the analysis identified an estimated level of achievable cost reduction amounting to £2.5 million in a full year. A proposal to deliver the above benefits was presented to the committee. The cost of the project will be resourced through cost savings arising from the implementation of the programme. The business case submitted to NHSI seeking approval for consultancy expenditure was shared. Subject to approval from NHSI, and in recognition that the Trust does not have the resources internally to progress the actions required, the committee SUPPORTED the implementation of the programme.

Finance Position Month 11
At the end of month 11, the Trust had planned to deliver an in year deficit of £7.095 million and actually recorded a deficit of £6.865 million. With an end of year position now agreed with Shropshire CCG and confirmation of the Trust’s success in the arbitration relating to RTT and A&E targets for Quarter 3, the Trust is on course to deliver an end of year deficit of £7.4 million.

Financial Strategy 2017/18
The Committee received the financial strategy for 2017/18 for consideration and approval. The strategy had been developed to deliver a control total of £6.063 million and generate cost efficiencies of £6.803 million, equivalent to 2% of operational spending. The adjustments made to the income budget associated with QIPP, demographic growth, winter pressures and re-admissions were discussed.

The committee RECOMMENDED APPROVAL of the 2017/18 budget to Trust Board.

Operational Plan 2017/18 Part One
The committee reviewed Part One of the Operational Plan for 2017/18 noting the state of readiness and how the Trust and Care Groups need to respond to the ‘here and now’ whilst maintaining high quality, kind and safe care. There was discussion about the imbalance between demand and capacity and the impact of this on the RTT Access Target. The committee discussed the 16% level of improvement needed to deliver the 95% A&E target and noted the pattern of discharges and admissions over the week, with the level of admissions consistently exceeding the volume of discharges during the weekend. Thirty-six objectives have been set for achievement in 2017/18.
Ophthalmology Accommodation Reconfiguration

A paper outlining the potential reconfiguration of Ophthalmology services was received and discussed. The Board had agreed the relocation of Clinic 10 RSH into the Copthorne Building and this was proceeding.

Hospital Pharmacy Transformation Plan

On behalf of the Trust Board, the committee received and APPROVED the Hospital Pharmacy Transformation Programme for SATH, a requirement of the Lord Carter of Coles’ report.

Other issues discussed

- Objectives for Sustainability Committee – three objectives/indicators were approved relating to finance, operational performance and operational business plan.
- Board Assurance Frame risks were reviewed and rag rating status re-confirmed.
- Contract for Non-Medical E-Rostering – the committee retrospectively APPROVED the decision taken by Trust Executives to renew the existing contract for 5 years to maintain stability of its rostering system.
- Information Governance Assessment – Jill Stretton, Information Governance Manager outlined the opportunities and challenges within SaTH to improve the management of information governance assessments. The committee offered their support to the process.
- Temporary Suspension of Neurology Outpatient Services for New Referrals – the agreement from the Trust Executives to temporarily suspend this service for 6 months while work is undertaken to develop a more sustainable model, was noted.
- VitalPAC – the committee APPROVED Option 2, the extension of the contract for a further 3 years.
- AOB - SemaHelix - the committee APPROVED the 3 year extension of the contract to enable the Trust to explore future IT system change opportunities.

Name of Chair: Harmesh Darbhanga
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