

Board of Directors' Meeting 7 January 2021

Agenda item	090/21			
Report	Report from the Chief Executive			
Executive Lead	Chief Executive Officer, Louise Barnett			
	Link to strategic pillar:		Link to CQC domain:	
	Our patients and community	√	Safe	√
	Our people	√	Effective	√
	Our service delivery	√	Caring	√
	Our partners	√	Responsive	√
	Our governance	√	Well Led	√
	Report recommendations:		Link to BAF / risk:	
	For assurance		All BAF risks applicable	
	For decision / approval		Link to risk register:	
	For review / discussion			
	For noting	√		
	For information			
	For consent			
Presented to:	Not applicable			
Dependent upon	Not applicable			
Executive summary:	<p>The first Ockenden Report has been published, with the Trust accepting all the findings and undertaking to implement all recommendations.</p> <p>The worsening Covid-19 situation has been reported through the national media for some weeks, with a review of tiers across the country taking place on 29 December. This is a quickly changing position, and a further update will be provided at the board meeting.</p> <p>The Government has approved the proposed EU exit agreement and terms, and legislation is being implemented to formalise the arrangements. The Department of Health and Social Care has indicated that there should be no disruption to the availability of medical supplies.</p> <p>NHSE/I has published its operational objectives for the next few months. Covid-19 continues to be highlighted as an area for focus, pending the effects of widespread vaccination.</p>			
Appendices	None			

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report reflects events and matters that have taken place since my last report to the Board of Directors on 8 December 2020.
- 1.2 The point of focus for the Trust has been the publication of Donna Ockenden's first report, which highlights poor care provided by the Trust over a long period. It is incumbent upon us all to ensure that we address these failures and I have committed on behalf of the Trust to ensure that we implement all the actions within the report.
- 1.3 Our first report to the Board of Directors' meeting in public since the publication of the report, provides details regarding how the Trust is responding to the report, and the further work required to ensure full implementation of all actions. The importance of listening to families cannot be overstated. We recognise we have more work to do and are committed to undertaking actions to improve our maternity services for the women of Shropshire communities and their families.
- 1.4 Regular progress reports will be provided to the Board of Directors in public.

2.0 Covid-19 Situation

- 2.1 More up to date details will be provided in the Chief Operating Officer's report later on this agenda, but we should recognise the enormous efforts of our colleagues involved in the establishment of this Trust as one of the first 50 regional hubs to provide a Covid-19 vaccination service, with the first vaccination in Shropshire taking place on 8 December 2020.
- 2.2 Trust and partner organisations worked incredibly hard for the service to be established at pace, on time.
- 2.3 At the time of writing this report, the number of Covid-19 inpatients that the Trust is caring for has increased to over 70. The introduction of the new tier 3 restrictions in the Shropshire area today has reflected the increasing burden that the NHS is currently experiencing from the effects of the virus, but also from usual winter pressures.
- 2.4 We heard today that the MHRA has authorised the Oxford University / AstraZeneca vaccine on a two dose schedule, with the second dose to be provided between 4 to 12 weeks from the first dose. It is reported that the vaccine should be available from 4 January 2021.

3.0 EU exit and Trade and Cooperation Agreement

- 3.1 Parliament have approved the EU exit agreement and terms, ensuring that the UK has a bi-lateral trade deal in place by 1 January 2021.
- 3.2 The Department of Health and Social Care has advised NHS organisations that there should be no major disruption in medical supplies during the initial period of the new arrangements, with weeks of supplies already in the country. Patients should continue to request their prescriptions as usual.
- 3.3 The recent freight issues at Dover highlighted problems that may occur with trade routes, and additional work has been undertaken by the government in this regard to ensure there is a smooth as possible transition.

- 3.4 Agreement has been reached so that professional regulators (e.g. the General Medical Council and the Midwifery and Nursing Council) can liaise with EU counterparts to agree a process for recognising professional qualifications in one another's territory and can form a Mutual Recognition Agreement.
- 3.5 A new UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be available from January 2021 in recognition of the new agreement with the EU, and will replace the former EHIC card used by travellers (although the old cards may still be used as they are valid until expiry).

4.0 Operational Priorities for winter and 2020/21

- 4.1 NHSE/I wrote to all NHS Trusts on 23 December 2020, setting out the focus for all NHS organisations for the period up to Spring 2020/21.
- 4.2 The principal priority, as expected, was the focus on Covid-19 and its five areas for attention:
- A. Responding to Covid-19 demand
 - B. Pulling out all the stops to implement the Covid-19 vaccination programme
 - C. Maximising capacity in all settings to treat non-Covid-19 patients
 - D. Responding to other emergency demand and managing winter pressures
 - E. Supporting the health and wellbeing of our workforce
- 4.3 Moving into 2021/22, it is anticipated that the NHS should be transitioning into to a period of recovery of all non-Covid-19 services, and should address any health inequalities that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. There will continue to be a focus on an expansion in mental health services, and collaborative system working. There is also emphasis on the use of data and digital technologies which can be used to enhance healthcare.
- 4.4 The NHS financial framework will continue to develop through the regional allocation of funding, with an emphasis on developing plans to reduce Covid-19 costs as we start to exit the pandemic.

**Louise Barnett,
Chief Executive
30 December 2020**