CHAIR’S REPORT

Since the January Governing Body meeting, my activities as Chair have included:

Board-to-Board meeting with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust

This event took place on 11 February 2015 and was a useful opportunity for the two organisations to meet at Board level and debate the key challenges each faces in commissioning and providing healthcare for our population. We identified some areas where greater joint working would be valuable. Further meetings are planned and both teams are working towards a next meeting in June 2015.

Primary Care Co-commissioning – Approval for Delegated Arrangements

On 17 February, the CCG was informed by NHS England that it had been approved to take on delegated responsibility from NHS England for commissioning general medical care functions from 1 April 2015. It is one of 64 CCGs across the country to receive this approval. It will be a new area of work for the CCG but fits well with our 20130 Vision for Health and Care. When announcing the approval, Ian Dodge, National Director for Commissioning Strategy at NHS England, said “a vote of confidence in CCGs. It is part of our commitment to deliver a new deal for primary care. And it’s a critical step towards joining up the commissioning system, which in turn will help unlock new models of integrated care described in the NHS Five Year Forward View.”

The CCG has to put new governance arrangements in place to support these new responsibilities. The Secondary Care Doctor and Lay Members of the Governing Body will require training on managing conflicts of interest and this is arranged nationally in April and May 2015.

Re-appointment of Lay Member

I’m delighted that the CCG’s Council of Members, at their February meeting, approved the re-appointment of Kevin Toole, Lay Member for Patient and Public Involvement for a further three years. His experience and knowledge is a great asset to the CCG and with his assistance we will continue to ensure local people are fully involved in the development of services.

Departure of Chief Finance Officer

Our Chief Finance Officer, Iain Stoddart, has been appointed to a bigger CFO role with North Staffordshire and Stoke CCGs and will be leaving Fylde and Wyre CCG in the near future. Iain is awaiting the completion of various appointment procedures before a leaving date is confirmed. We will be sorry to lose Iain who has been fundamental to the CCG success so far. His robust financial stewardship and his support for the development of new models of care to transform health services across Fylde and Wyre have been invaluable.

On behalf of the CCG, I congratulate Iain on his achievement, thank him for his enormous contribution, and wish him every success in his new role and future career.
Nominations for UK Honours for New Year 2016

The Department of Health wrote to all NHS bodies in February seeking help in identifying potential candidates from across the health and care system for the 2016 New Year Honours List. The CCG circulated the request and the closing date for nominations was 9 March. I mention this matter here to draw attention to this ongoing opportunity and whilst the New Year Honours deadline for nominations may have passed, there will be other opportunities and I have urged CCG colleagues to think about possible nominations. As Una O’Brien, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health stated in her letter “the honours system is there to recognise the achievements of ordinary people who do extraordinary things. There are many people who do go above and beyond the call of duty every day, and we really need your help to ensure that these people are nominated and hopefully recognised”.

Changes in Public Health England support

Public Health England (PHE) was set up two years ago to be the national public health agency providing expert advice and supporting national and local delivery. In January, it announced that it was strengthening its local presence by organising its local functions into eight PHE centres outside London. The primary role of each PHE centre is to support local authorities in their leadership of public health within a locality. The PHE support to Lancashire now comes from the PHE North West Centre headed by Melanie Sirotkin, Centre Director, and from the North of England Regional Director, Paul Johnstone. In view of the importance of health promotion and prevention in our 2030 Vision for Health and Care, these developments will enable us to strengthen our links with public health colleagues.

Healthwatch survey “What are people’s biggest health and care issues for 2015”?

Healthwatch conducted a survey of all 152 of their local organisations in November and December 2014. They identified the following issues as the three top health and care issues for people in 2015:

- Improving access to GPs
- Greater focus around hospital discharge planning
- Ensuring people are properly engaged and involved in discussions around changes to local services and in particular the impact of the Better Care Fund

None of these priorities are surprises to us and we will continue to engage with our local Healthwatch to ensure we address them effectively in Fylde and Wyre during 2015. To enable the public to easily see how we are working towards meeting these priorities, we have cross referenced our public pledges to them in attached engagement report.

Greater Manchester shared plan for £6 billion health and social care funding

We understand that this trailblazing move, announced on 27 February, is part of a long-standing partnership arrangement for Greater Manchester which includes 12 CCGs, 10 local authorities and 15 providers. The partnership has agreed a framework for health and social care, with plans for joint decision-making on integrated care to support physical, mental and social wellbeing. The governance of this is still to be confirmed but includes a new Health and Wellbeing Board and a Joint Commissioning Committee bringing together the 10 councils with NHS commissioners. The CCGs retain their full statutory functions. We will continue to monitor and learn from this initiative in Greater Manchester.
Whistleblowing in the NHS

Sir Robert Francis published his review into whistleblowing in the NHS in February. The review was set up in response to continuing disquiet about the way NHS organisations deal with concerns raised by NHS staff and the treatment of some of those who have spoken up. The government has accepted, in principle, all of Sir Robert's recommendations and will shortly consult on:

- a new National Whistleblowing Guardian to protect those who speak up
- practical help through Monitor, the Trust Development Authority and NHS England to help whistleblowers find alternative employment
- a local whistleblowing guardian in every NHS organisation - reporting directly to the chief executive
- training for staff on how to raise concerns and protect others who do so

before making a final decision on how the recommendations are to be implemented. As a CCG, we will keep this issue under review and update our policies and procedures following the outcome of the consultation.

Morecambe Bay Investigation Report

This Report was published on 3 March 2015 and details the investigation into maternity and neonatal services in Morecambe Bay. It covers the period January 2004 to June 2013 and concludes that the maternity unit at Furness General Hospital, Barrow, was dysfunctional and that serious failures of clinical care led to unnecessary deaths of mothers and babies. The report makes 44 recommendations for the Trust and wider NHS aimed at ensuring the failings are properly recognised and acted upon. One of the recommendations relating to a national review of the provision of maternity and paediatric care in rural, isolated or difficult to recruit to areas is already underway. As a CCG, this report has much useful learning for us to incorporate in our commissioning activities and encourages us to be more vigilant about identifying where services are not meeting required standards and being resolute in addressing deficiencies.

Amendments to CCG constitution approved

As reported at the last Governing Body meeting, the CCG submitted an application to NHS England on 6 January 2015 for changes to its constitution. NHS England has confirmed its review of the changes and agreed that the proposed changes to the constitution comply with the particular requirements of the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and is otherwise appropriate. Accordingly NHS England approved the changes to the CCG’s constitution.

Governing Body Appraisal 2014/15

The appraisal process is now underway with diary dates being scheduled for Governing Body members. The Remuneration Committee agreed recently that the ‘rich’ information obtained by Mersey Internal Audit as part of their review of the effectiveness of the Governing Body in 2014/15, could be used as the equivalent of an appreciative enquiry exercise to supplement the appraisal process, thus avoiding the duplication and expense of another ‘review’ exercise.
Recommendation

The Governing Body is requested to note this report.

Mary Dowling
Chair