

## BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

**Title:** Chief Executive's report

**By:** Simon Stevens, CEO

**Purpose of paper:**

- Update on the work of the Chief Executive over the last two months
- Information on a number of NHS England priorities not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Actions required by Board Members:**

- To note, and to discuss various items referred to herein.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BOARD REPORT**

**28th July 2016**

My heavy schedule of Parliamentary accountability has continued. Since the last Board meeting I have - at their request - given oral evidence to the Public Accounts Committee (on hospital discharges), to the Health Select Committee (on public health), again to the Public Accounts Committee (on mental health), and again to the Health Select Committee (on post-Brexit referendum 'current issues').

I spoke at various events including the NHS Confederation's annual conference in Manchester, the second NHS Windrush celebration, and the Allied Health Professions summit, and I joined colleagues in representing the NHS at the Queen's 90th Birthday service and the unveiling at St Thomas' of the Mary Seacole statue.

### **Annual Report and Accounts**

Last Thursday we published our annual report and accounts. They showed that for the third year running NHS England balanced our £100bn+ budget, met every financial requirement specified by Parliament, and received a clean audit opinion from NAO. Through tight management we also were able to contribute a £599 million underspend to help offset overspending elsewhere within the DH group. Particular thanks go to our Audit committee chaired by David Roberts, and to our finance team led by Paul Baumann.

### **2016/17 "reset"**

Last Thursday NHS Improvement and ourselves published various "reset" controls to support improved operational and financial performance by trusts and CCGs in 2016/17. This includes clearcut step-in action at those CCGs that are not meeting their required performance, in line with the Mandate and other objectives. In the case of providers, NHS Improvement has set clear performance improvement and financial requirements tailored to each trust, in order to meet the agreed £250m provider deficit figure for 2016/17 in line with the legal obligation to live within the funding total that Parliament has set for the NHS this year.

The 'reset' has correctly been interpreted as signalling an end to tolerance of a situation where in recent times some in effect felt able to 'choose their own deficit', meaning that others in the NHS then had to pick up their tab - typically through offsetting if hidden cuts in mental health, primary care, and other vulnerable parts of the service. That is bad for patients, unfair to other staff across the health service, and inconsistent with the requirements on every board and chief executive/accounting officer to act as effective stewards of public money.

### **Implementing our national priorities**

NHS England is shifting the focus of our work to implementation of the Forward View across the country and in our key priorities.

As promised, we have this month published a detailed implementation plan for mental health. And today we are setting out concrete and immediate support for GP practices, in line with the GP Forward View.

Effective implementation requires strong clinical leadership and engagement, of the sort being shown by our recently appointed director of primary care Dr Arvind Madan and Dr Jonathan Fielden our specialised commissioning director. Tomorrow we will be building on that approach by appointing NHS England's new A&E clinical leader, working alongside Pauline Philip and Keith Willet and in partnership with NHS Improvement. We will also be announcing the appointment of 40 of the country's top clinicians to lead our specialised service clinical reference groups.

### **Sustainability and Transformation Plans**

I have spent a large part of July personally doing face to face review sessions with local NHS and local government leaders across the country, including nine events held in Leeds, London, Bournemouth, Reading and Leicester.

I will update the Board verbally on next steps, including on the 2017/18-2018/19 commissioning round.

Simon Stevens  
Chief Executive