

**To:** The Board

**For meeting on:** 24 January 2018

**Agenda item:** 4

**Report by:** Dido Harding, Chair

**Report on:** Chair's report

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### **NHS winter pressures**

1. I would firstly like to thank all staff in the NHS for their continued hard work and commitment through the very busy and challenging winter period. I have witnessed this many times in my visits to providers over the last two months. I would also like to thank the teams in NHS Improvement who are working so hard to support providers. We will have a detailed update on winter pressures and the immediate action being taken to support providers at the meeting, and I am sure that as a Board we will also want to schedule a discussion early in the spring to ensure that we learn the lessons both for next week and more broadly.

### **Chief executive**

2. I am very pleased to welcome Ian Dalton CBE to his first formal NHS Improvement Board meeting. Ian has hit the ground running since he joined in early December and has very quickly got up to speed on the most urgent matters facing NHS Improvement and the wider sector – most notably winter pressures and agreeing the details of the recent additional health funding announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. I am confident Ian will bring a wealth of knowledge experience and energy to the role and look forward to continuing to build a strong and productive Chair-CEO relationship with him.

### **Getting to know NHS Improvement and the NHS as a whole.**

3. I have continued my program of visits to learn about the NHS and meet front line teams across the country. Since the last board meeting I have visited a range of providers around the country including the Hertfordshire Partnership in Radlett, Luton Hospital, the Royal Free, Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, the South

West Ambulance Service, Frimley Health STP and Grimsby Hospital. I have met with a number of stakeholders since my last report including the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Surgeons, NHS Providers, NHS Confederation, the Mulberry Group of Provider CEOs, the Shelford Group and NEDs at NHS England.

4. I have also met with Jonathan Ashworth, the Labour Shadow Health Secretary and have started to meet a number of members of the Health Select Committee. I continue to meet with Government ministers in the Department of Health and Social Care and look forward to engaging and building constructive relations with new members of the ministerial team.
5. Within NHS Improvement I continue to meet and engage with our staff through small discussion groups, “coffee roulette” and using digital channels. Ian and I held our first all staff briefing this month. Staff were able to ask questions live during the session and it was really encouraging the degree to which they posed challenging and important questions. Initial feedback on the session was very good and we intend to make these sort of sessions an ongoing way of working.

### **Closer Working with NHS England**

6. Malcolm Grant and I continue to meet regularly and have had a series of discussions on how to better align the work of NHS England and NHS Improvement.
7. One initiative is to have cross representation on each other’s boards. I am pleased to confirm that the NHS Improvement Board have appointed David Roberts as an Associate Non Executive Director of NHS Improvement on a two year term. David is currently Deputy Chairman on NHS England and will be attending NHS Improvement Board meetings as a non voting Associate Non Executive Director from February. Richard Douglas will also be joining the NHS England Board in a similar Associate capacity from February. Together, Richard and David will be co-chairing the NHS England and NHS Improvement Joint Finance Committee with a specific brief to ensure that both organisations are working from a common understanding of the financial targets and financial performance of the health system as a whole.
8. We also intend to have two joint board meetings in the year ahead which are provisionally scheduled for May and September.

### **Non-executive director appointments**

9. I am pleased to note that the appointments of Sigurd Reinton and Lord Patrick Carter as NHS Improvement non-executive directors have been extended to 30 June 2018. Together with the Department of Health, I have started the process of recruitment to fill both current and upcoming vacancies on the Board.