

**To:** The Board

**For meeting on:** 24 May 2018

**Agenda item:** 4

**Report by:** Dido Harding, Chair

**Report on:** Chair's report

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### **Getting out and about in the NHS**

1. I have continued my program of visits to learn about the NHS and meet frontline teams across the country. Malcolm Grant, David Roberts and I visited Newcastle Hospitals Foundation Trust together, and held a round table discussion with a cross section of leaders from Commissioners and Providers. It was extremely useful to hear their combined perspectives and discuss how we can support them better through more joined up working with NHS England. Malcolm and I also visited The Christie together where we heard about the collaboration ongoing between the Trust, Manchester University and indeed Greater Manchester health and social care overall. I have also visited the CAMHs service at Oxford Health, the Royal London Hospital and the Institute for Healthcare Innovation at Imperial.
2. I have met with a number of stakeholders since my last report including the NHS Partners Network, the President and CEO of the GMC, The President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, the Federation of Specialist Hospitals and the Chairs network in the Midlands and East. I have also spoken at several conferences including the Cambridge Health Network, NHS Improvement Workforce Conference, 2020 Frimley Leadership Program, and The King's Fund Leadership and Management Conference.

### **Focus on Improvement**

3. At all these visits and gatherings, I have set out our emerging plan to focus the work of NHS Improvement on improvement, our intention to work collaboratively with NHS England in that endeavour and the importance I place on improving leadership and management capability as a fundamental lever to drive better

outcomes for patients, staff and taxpayers alike. Feedback has been extremely encouraging: generally people are supportive of this direction and see the benefits it can bring. It's clear that the service needs to see NHS Improvement also change to reflect this purpose and the main concerns expressed have been around our ability to implement rather than whether this is the right direction of travel. As we move into implementation, it's going to be essential that we invest enough time and effort into organisational development to deliver what is a substantial change. We will discuss this more in our joint sessions with the NHS England Board.

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

4. Since the last Board meeting, we have started recruiting to fill our Non-Executive Director vacancies and identify successors to Non-Executives whose terms are coming to an end later in the year. Applications have now closed for the posts and the process is well on track as per the timetable set out in the information pack available on the cabinet office website.

### **Mental Health Awareness week**

5. As I write, this week is Mental Health Awareness week. It's been encouraging to see organisations across the country in the public and private sector getting involved. On Wednesday I joined a half day Mental Health Awareness First Aider training session with colleagues from across NHS Improvement. It was extremely informative and thought provoking from a personal and professional perspective, and I would encourage everyone on the Board to take part in one.