

**MINUTES OF A MEETING IN COMMON OF THE BOARDS OF NHS ENGLAND AND  
NHS IMPROVEMENT HELD ON THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 13.30 AT  
SKIPTON HOUSE, 80 LONDON ROAD, LONDON SE1 6LH**

**Members:**

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**NHS Improvement**

Baroness Dido Harding	Chair
Simon Stevens	NHS CEO
Sir David Behan	Associate Non-Executive Director
Lord Ara Darzi	Non-Executive Director
Ian Dodge	National Director for Strategy & Innovation
Richard Douglas	Vice Chair
Dr Tim Ferris	Non-Executive Director (by telephone)
Julian Kelly	Chief Financial Officer
Wol Kolade	Non-Executive Director
Ruth May	Executive Director of Nursing
Sir Andrew Morris	Non-Executive Director
Professor Stephen Powis	National Medical Director
Amanda Pritchard	Chief Operating Officer

**NHS England**

Lord David Prior	Chair
Simon Stevens	NHS CEO
Ian Dodge	National Director for Strategy & Innovation
Noel Gordon	Non-Executive Member
Julian Kelly	Chief Financial Officer
Ruth May	Chief Nursing Officer
Michelle Mitchell	Non-Executive Member
Professor Stephen Powis	National Medical Director
Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed	Non-Executive Member
Amanda Pritchard	Chief Operating Officer
David Roberts	Vice Chair
Joanne Shaw	Non-Executive Member

**In attendance:**

Jessica Dahlstrom	Head of Governance
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**1. Welcome and apologies**

- 1.1. Apologies for absence had been received from Lord Carter of Coles (Non-Executive Director) and Emily Lawson (National Director for Transformation & Corporate Development).

## **2. Declarations of interest**

- 2.1. The Chair of NHS Improvement declared an interest as Interim Chair of Genomics England.

## **3. Minutes and matters arising from the meeting held on 26 September 2019 (BM/19/30)**

- 3.1. The minutes from the meeting held on 26 September 2019 were approved and matters arising were noted.

## **4. Chair's report**

- 4.1. The Chair of NHS Improvement provided an overview of her visits to NHS providers around the country and set out examples of impressive improvements witnessed across the NHS and as part of the awards ceremonies she attended including the Sir Peter Carr awards.
- 4.2. The Chair of NHS England provided an overview of the events he had attended on genomics. He also summarised the discussions Board members had had since the last meeting regarding the impact of pensions tax on clinical staff supply. The Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the solutions which had been identified to address these pensions issues, and the NHS England Board ratified the use of emergency powers to put these measures in place.

## **5. Chief Executive's report**

- 5.1. The NHS CEO provided an overview of activities since the last meeting. The pre-election period limited the discussion which could take place at the public board meeting today, however, he outlined several measures which had been taken to support the NHS workforce, including the restatement of £150m of Continuing Professional Development funding for nurses and other staff.
- 5.2. The National Medical Director provided an overview of work currently ongoing with Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, where an independent review commissioned by NHS Improvement had commenced. The scale and scope of the original review had been expanded since it had been commissioned and additional resources had been dedicated to it. The expanded terms of reference for the review had been published today. NHS England and NHS Improvement were working closely with the review team to ensure they had access to all information they required. The review was expected to conclude towards the end of 2020.
- 5.3. Board members highlighted the importance of listening actively and carefully to the experiences of the families affected by the events, of honest and open communication with these families, and of taking action on the feedback received.
- 5.4. Board members asked for an update on the concerns raised at the Board meeting on 26 September 2019 about primary care services in Swindon. The

improvements which had subsequently been made or were in the process were outlined. These had focused on improving access to GP services in the area.

## **6. Operational performance report (BM/19/31)**

- 6.1. The Boards received a paper which provided a summary of the published operational performance data covering the period to October 2019. This included data setting out performance in urgent and emergency care, Referral to Treatment (RTT) care and cancer. Updates were also provided on primary care and system transformation and on care for those with a learning disability and/or autism.
- 6.2. The Chief Operating Officer welcomed the hard work of all those involved with the provision of NHS services. An overview was provided of key operational data and Board members noted that there had been increase in bookable appointments available for urgent and emergency care. These were not counted towards performance against the four hour A&E target, but had meant a significant improvement in service delivery for a large number of patients.
- 6.3. An update was provided on the ability of providers to offer zero length of stay services and it was noted that over 90% of providers were now able to offer this service to patients. Board members noted the increased uptake of 111 services, and more older people had been vaccinated for 'flu compared to this time last year. The Chief Nursing Officer thanked staff for their hard work, including nurse leaders who were working hard to look after the wellbeing of their staff during this challenging period.
- 6.4. The National Medical Director welcomed the removal of the pension constraints on consultants who were keen to work extra shifts during this time of year to help their colleagues treat more patients. Consultants were now able to work additional shifts and the Boards welcomed this. An overview was provided of the transformational changes currently ongoing in the delivery of outpatient services. There were several benefits for patients in reducing the number of appointments and bringing care closer to home. These changes would also reduce the NHS's carbon footprint.
- 6.5. Board members welcomed such transformation changes while managing the immediate response to current demand for NHS services. An update was provided on cancer referral and treatment activity. Cancer patient experience was at record high levels. The challenges which still needed to be addressed were noted and the cancer and obesity campaign was discussed.
- 6.6. It was noted that increasing the primary care workforce continued to be an area of focus. 99% of the country was now covered by Primary Care Networks which were a positive vehicle for delivering additional investment in the primary care workforce. Relationships between Primary Care Networks and their community partners would be a key success factor.
- 6.7. In relation to mental health, there had been a significant additional funding commitment which had resulted in a substantial increase in the number of people accessing services. There would be a continued focus on ensuring this investment

was reflected in local plans. Every emergency department now had mental health liaison. In relation to learning disabilities, there had been a significant reduction in the number of people looked after in inpatient facilities. The number of Care (Education) Treatment Reviews undertaken was also increasing and the NHS was working in close partnership with local authorities and other partners to improve the support offer to those with learning disabilities.

## **7. Month 6, 2019/20 Finance Report (BM/19/32)**

- 7.1. The Boards were provided with a summary of the financial position across the NHS, and the commissioner and provider sectors as at month 6 2019/20. This report showed an aggregated financial position for both the commissioner and provider sectors based on current reporting practices. The Boards noted that Month 6 official forecast outturn was for the NHS to be broadly in overall financial balance.
- 7.2. A discussion took place on the risks in the plan and the mitigating actions which had been put in place. These mitigations were designed to support the financial position for the years ahead. An update was provided on capital and it was noted that more had been able to be spent this year compared to the same period last year.
- 7.3. Board members noted that the variances set out in the paper were small compared to the overall budget, and welcomed the progress made on capital investment.

## **8. Any other business**

- 8.1. The Chair of NHS Improvement reminded the Boards of the pre-election period which had limited the scope for reporting in the public Board meeting, and thanked staff at NHS England, NHS Improvement and the wider NHS for their hard work.

**Close**