

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING IN COMMON OF THE BOARDS OF NHS
ENGLAND AND NHS IMPROVEMENT HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MAY 2022 AT 2
PM BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Members:

NHS England

Richard Meddings	Chair
Michael Coupe	Non-Executive Director
Amanda Pritchard	Chief Executive Officer
Susan Kilsby	Non-Executive Director
Wol Kolade	Vice Chair

NHS Improvement

Sir David Behan	Associate Non-Executive Director
Dame Julia Goodfellow	Non-Executive Director
Rakesh Kapoor	Non-Executive Director

Joint members

Julian Kelly	Chief Financial Officer
Ruth May	Chief Nursing Officer
Sir David Sloman	Chief Operating Officer

In attendance:

Gareth Arthur	Director and SRO for Antivirals Deployment
Sofia Bernsand	Head of Board Governance
Duncan Burton	Deputy Chief Nursing Officer
Jayne Chidgey-Clark	National Guardian for the NHS (for agenda item 10)
Mark Cubbon	Chief Delivery Officer
Ian Dodge	National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy
Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE	Chief Midwifery Officer, Maternity Safety Champions
Navina Evans	Chief Executive, Health Education England (Observer)
Dr Timothy Ferris	Director of Transformation
Aidan Fowler	National Director of Patient Safety
Claire Fuller	Senior Responsible Officer for the Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System
Ellen Graham	Director of the Office of the NHS Chairs, CEO and COO
Katherine Ibbotson	Director of Governance and Legal
Matthew Jolly	Maternity Safety Champion
Tim Kendall	National Clinical Director for Mental Health
Sarah-Jane Marsh	Chair of the Maternity Transformation Programme
Jim Mackey	National Director for Elective Recovery
Claire Murdoch	Senior Responsible Officer for Mental Health
Pauline Philip	National Director for Urgent and Emergency Care
Jacqui Rock	Chief Commercial Officer
Phoebe Robinson	Director of Maternity, Children and Young People
Em Wilkinson-Brice	Acting Chief People Officer

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1. Apologies for absence had been received from Andrew Morris (Chair, NHS Improvement), Lord Patrick Carter of Coles (Non-Executive Director, NHS Improvement), Lord Ara Darzi of Denham (Non-Executive Director, NHS England), Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed (Non-Executive Director, NHS Improvement), Professor Stephen Powis (National Medical Director), Jeremy Townsend (Non-Executive Director, NHS Improvement) and Laura Wade-Gery (Non-Executive, Director, NHS England)

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1. No declarations of interest were raised over and above those held on record and no conflicts of interest were raised in respect of business covered by the agenda.

3. Minutes from the meetings held on 24 March 2022 (BM/22/15(Pu))

- 3.1. The minutes from the NHS England and NHS Improvement Board meetings held on 24 March 2022 were approved.

4. Chair's report (verbal update)

- 4.1. The Chair of NHS England introduced the item and provided an overview of the wide range of stakeholder meetings he had attended since taking up his new role.
- 4.2. The Chair reflected on his first six weeks as the incoming chair and provided an overview of priority areas for the Boards, highlighting urgent and emergency care, workforce, access to primary care, elective recovery and merger of NHS England, NHS Improvement, Health Education England and NHS Digital.

5. Chief Executive's Report (verbal update)

- 5.1. The NHS Chief Executive welcomed Richard Meddings as the new Chair of NHS England and noted the appointment of the new Chief Strategy Officer and the National Director of Primary Care and Community Services. She also noted that this was Ian Dodge's, the National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy, last Board meeting and thanked him for his significant contribution.
- 5.2. The 'Spring booster' vaccine programme had now delivered over three million doses to people in the highest risk groups and the network of COVID Medicine Delivery Units have successfully administered antiviral and antibodies treatments to 140,000 patients in the highest clinical risk groups. The Boards noted that given the sustained decrease in COVID-19 infection rates the decision has been made to reduce the NHS National Incident Response from a national Level 4 incident level to a Level 3 regional oversight level. As a consequence, systems had now been asked to shift their focus to recovery of services and the delivery of the NHS reform agenda as well as ensuring the updated infection prevention and control and visiting guides are reflected in individual system guides.
- 5.3. The Chief Executive provided an overview of cancer services, noting the increase in cancer referrals and reminded members of the public of the NHS's 'Help Us,

Help You' campaign and encouraged members of the public to come forward if they display worrying symptoms for cancer.

- 5.4. The continued significant pressures on urgent and emergency pathways and ambulance service capacity were noted. It was noted that positive progress has been made in reaching the first milestone outlined in the Elective Recovery plan.

The rise in Monkeypox cases in England was noted, highlighting that the NHS was working closely with the UK Health Security Agency.

- 5.5. The Royal Assent of the Health and Social Care Act 2022 was highlighted and the Boards thanked colleagues for their work in preparing for the legal establishment of Integrated Care Boards on 1 July 2022.

6. NHS operational performance update (BM/22/16(Pu))

- 6.1. An update on elective recovery was provided and the Boards noted the progress made in decreasing the 104-week waiting lists and work underway to develop interventions to support a reduction in the waiting lists.
- 6.2. The Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the 2021/22 NHS financial position, highlighting the estimated provider and commissioner expenditure below plan of approximately £1.2 billion of which half relates to ring-fenced COVID-19 budgets.
- 6.3. An update on the financial plans for 2022/23 was provided, noting the ongoing work with systems to ensure financially balanced plans in line with performance activity goals set out in the 2022/23 Planning Guidance, and taking into account a higher level of inflation costs. A further £1.5 billion will be allocated to systems to fund some of the inflation pressures.
- 6.4. A discussion took place on capital expenditure and the challenges and risks around the NHS estate portfolio. The Chief Financial Officer noted that an additional £4 billion of funding will be allocated to systems and is, to some extent, expected to be invested in maintaining estates and replacing equipment. The considerable investments required to reduce critical infrastructure risks was noted and the impact this will have on the ability to increase capacity was considered.
- 6.5. The Chair concluded by noting that since the start of the pandemic the NHS has treated over 730,000 patients with COVID-19 in hospitals and paid tribute to colleagues across the system for effectively treating over seven times the amount of patients against the general overall NHS bed capacity.

7. Maternity and Neonatal Services Update (BM/22/08(Pu))

- 7.1. The Chief Nursing Officer introduced the report, noting that since the last Board meeting the final report of the Ockenden review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust had been published setting out the terrible failings suffered by so many families and expressed her deepest condolences for the loss and pain these families have had to endure.

- 7.2. The National Director of Patient Safety provided an update on the Ockenden report, highlighting the progress that has been made in implementing the twelve clinical priorities from the interim Ockenden report. The final report proposes a large number of actions for the Trust and 15 areas for national action, which NHS England will ensure are satisfactory implemented. Continued support will also be provided to the affected families and to the Trust itself to ensure improvements are implemented and sustainable.
- 7.3. The chair of the Maternity Transformation Programme provided an update on the three key action areas that have been identified as essential to be addressed to drive improvements across maternity and neonatal services in England: assurance and oversight; leadership and culture; and resource. The Chief Midwifery Officer highlighted that improvements in oversight and assurance included the introduction of a maternity board oversight tool, to assist trusts in measuring compliance against the recommendations from the Ockenden report, and the introduction of maternity voices partnerships.
- 7.4. The Boards noted the plan to develop a refreshed delivery plan for maternity and neonatal care by the end of 2022 and requested that a further update on whether the actions to be implemented have resulted in improved maternity and neonatal services be presented to the Boards at a future meeting.

ACTION: RM

8. Mental Health CYP & Adult Backlog Update (BM/22/18(Pu))

- 8.1. The Senior Responsible Officer for Mental Health introduced the item and provided an update on progress made in respect of the national mental health programme and work taking place to develop a longer term strategic plan for the delivery of mental health services and tackling backlogs.
- 8.2. An overview of developments since the last update was provided, noting that all the Adult Secure, Children and Young People's and Adult Eating Disorder NHS-Led Provider Collaboratives are now up and running and over 30 local systems are developing Mental Health Provider Collaboratives covering the whole mental health pathway which will result in more effective ways in meeting patient needs.
- 8.3. Workforce capacity challenges were considered and Board members noted the intention to increase the mental health workforce by introducing 19,000 new posts.

9. Claire Fuller review into primary care (verbal update)

- 9.1. The Chief Executive introduced the item and noted that in November last year she commissioned Dr Claire Fuller, the Chief Executive of NHS Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Group, to carry out a review of how systems can accelerate implementation of the primary care, out of hospital care and prevention ambitions in the NHS Long Term Plan and drive more integrated primary, community and social care services at a local level in anticipation of the establishment of Integrated Care Systems.

Dr Fuller provided an overview of the extensive engagement process undertaken to inform the report. The key findings from the review were considered,

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highlighting positive response and level of ambition for improved and integrated community care that had been shared by colleagues and partners across the system but also the need to improve access to health care and deliver care differently. The Boards welcomed the review and the shift towards working more in communities in partnership with people and organisations for the greater good of the population in that community.

10. National Guardian's Office update and priorities for 2022/2023 (BM/22/20(Pu))

10.1. Dr Jayne Chidgey-Clark, the National Guardian for the NHS, provided an overview of progress made to improve the speak up culture across a range of organisations, systems, and processes across the health sector. The increase in the number of Freedom to Speak Up Guardians was highlighted and the important role that the Guardians have in supporting colleagues who speak up was noted. An overview of priorities for 2022/23 was provided, noting the planned implementation of a new universal Freedom to Speak Up policy and guidance. The Boards noted their support for work of the National Guardian Office and highlighted the important role that a good 'Speak Up' culture has in supporting an inclusive and open culture.

11. Public Sector Equality Duty review report and future equality objectives and targets for NHS England and NHS Improvement (BM/22/21(Pu))

11.1. The Boards noted the reports and endorsed the proposed equality objectives for 2022/23 and 2023/24 and targets for 2022/23.

12. NHS England and NHS Improvement Green Plan 2022-25 (BM/22/22(Pu))

12.1. The Boards approved the organisations' Green Plan for 2022-25 and its publication on the NHS England/Improvement website.

13. Any other business

13.1. The Boards requested that an item on preparations for the 2022/23 winter period be presented at the next meeting.

ACTION: DS

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