

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cover Sheet

DATE OF MEETING	26 January 2012
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	P1 (9)
TITLE	REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
CONTACT	DR C F BURKE

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
At this meeting of the Board of Directors I shall be reporting upon: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Major Incident2. Quality Assurance Visit to Stepping Hill Hospital – 17 November 20113. NHS News

RECOMMENDATIONS
<i>That this report be received.</i>

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1. Major Incident

On Tuesday 3 January 2012, staff at our hospital reported that prescription charts had been altered overnight. Because of highly experienced doctors and nurses immediately spotting the changes on the prescription charts, no patient was harmed.

A 46-year-old male nurse was arrested by Greater Manchester Police on Thursday 5 January 2012 in connection with the tampering of prescription charts. He was then also arrested on Saturday 7 January 2012 in connection with the deliberate contamination of saline products at Stepping Hill Hospital between 1 June 2011 and 11 June 2011.

The nurse was subsequently released on bail pending further inquiries on the night of Sunday 8 January 2012, until an unconfirmed date in April. The police bail conditions mean this member of staff is not able to return to work.

This has been an extremely difficult time for patients, their families and staff, who are understandably distressed. We are reminding everyone that these criminal acts do not reflect on the good care provided by dedicated and committed staff and the effective working practices in our hospital.

The safety of our patients remains our highest priority and we continue to support the police in this on-going investigation.

The additional security measures, which were introduced following the saline contamination incident last summer, remain in place. These include CCTV in some treatment rooms, two nurses for the preparation and handling of drugs on wards, required signing-in and out for access to any treatment room in the hospital and security guards on mobile patrol within the hospital.

2. Quality Assurance Visit to Stepping Hill Hospital – 17 November 2011

On 17 November 2011, the Trust had a quality assurance visit by the University of Manchester Medical School and NHS North West. The focus was undergraduate medical teaching and clinical experience. The official report confirmed that 'Stepping Hill Hospital offers an excellent clinical experience to MBChB students from years 3 to 5. Once again the clinical supervisors and undergraduate administrative staff were highly commended by the students who feel well supported during their time at Stepping Hill. Students report that the ethos of inclusion and high quality teaching is still present in all areas of the hospital.'

3. NHS News

Bulletins from the Chief Executive of the NHS are published weekly and alert Chief Executives to publications, circulars and announcements from the Department of Health. Since the previous meeting of the Board of Directors there have been three bulletins (issues 228-230).

The bulletins contain information on policy news, consultations and evaluations, publications, conferences and events and patient safety alerts.

Could I draw the attention of the Board of Directors to the following items:

On the agenda

▪ **The Quarter, quarter 2 2011/12**

David Flory's report for the second quarter July to September 2011/12 provides a summary of the NHS financial position and performance against the national priorities set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12.

The report shows that the NHS has continued to perform strongly against the requirements of the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12 and has made good progress in beginning to make the savings and system transformation required to deliver the quality, innovation, productivity and prevention (QIPP) and reform challenge.

To read The Quarter, go to:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/the-quarter-quarter-2-201112/

▪ **Pensions Announcement**

The Health Secretary laid a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS), following the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's announcement in Parliament on 20 December. Both the WMS and the detailed Heads of Agreement reached with the Health Unions, employers and the Department are available on the Department's website. Subject to the TU process, these changes will deliver a reformed NHS Pension Scheme from 2015.

For further information, go to:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/pensions-agreement/

▪ **New Year's resolutions? Make a commitment to your staff**

Workplace environments and management culture directly affect employees' health. The NHS Operating Framework 2012/13 emphasises that staff continue to be our most vital resource. Signing up to the Public Health Responsibility Deal gives a clear sign of commitment to support and improve staff health and well being. Healthier staff means better care.

To find out more, go to: <http://responsibilitydeal.dh.gov.uk/>

Policy News

▪ **New arrangements for provision of Health Care Chaplains**

(Gateway reference number: 16628)

From 3 January 2012, there will be new arrangements for advising on the appointment of Health Care Chaplains. A panel made up of advisers from the religious and faith groups in England will recommend advisers to trusts seeking assistance in appointing chaplains to acute and mental health hospitals.

Link: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/appointing-healthcare-chaplains/

Action: NHS chief executives will wish to consider these new arrangements and any implications locally.

▪ **Accelerating the release of public sector land for development**

(Gateway reference number: 17074)

This letter from David Flory sets out the assistance being provided to the NHS to support their contribution to the Government's plans to build 100,000 new homes on public sector land. This will enable surplus land to be disposed of more quickly and includes the Build Now, Pay Later scheme.

Link: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/release-surplus-land/

Action: NHS chief executives will wish to progress the contents of this letter.

Publications

- **Building the NHS Trust Development Authority**

(Gateway reference number: 16924)

The NHS Trust Development Authority (NTDA) will be responsible for the delivery of the foundation trust pipeline. The Department has published 'Building the NTDA', a document outlining further details about the purpose and structure of the organisation and the transition process involved in transferring provider development responsibilities to the new organisation.

Link: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/nhs-trust-development-authority

Action: NHS chief executives will wish to review the publication and consider any local implications.

Consultations and Evaluations

- **Annual Statement of Fire Safety**

(Gateway reference number: 17066)

The Annual Statement of Fire Safety has been issued to Directors of Estates. The purpose of the Annual Statement is to assure the Department and the Care Quality Commission that the risk to patients, visitors and employees arising from the threat of fire is effectively managed.

Link: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/statement-fire-safety/

Action: NHS chief executives will wish to ensure the 2011 Annual Statement of Fire Safety is completed, signed and returned by 24 February 2012.

Dr C F Burke
Chief Executive

JJP/SC/Notes/BoD/2012/26.01.12/Chief Exec Report 26.01.12
19 January 2012