

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday 27th February 2008**

Present:	Michael Cassidy	-	Chairman
	Nancy Hallett	-	Chief Executive
	Tracey Fletcher	-	Director of Operations
	Pauline Brown	-	Director of Corporate Development
	Dr John Coakley	-	Medical Director
	Anna Anderson	-	Director of Finance
	Guy Young	-	Director of Nursing & Quality
	Andrew Panniker	-	Director of HR & Environment
	Jessica Crowe	-	Non Executive Director
	Kate Costeloe	-	Non Executive Director
	Stephen Hay	-	Non Executive Director
	Eric Sorensen	-	Non Executive Director
	Ian Luder	-	Non Executive Director
	Michael Keith	-	Non Executive Director

Minutes: Sallie Rumbold - Deputy Director of Operations

1.0 Chairman's Welcome and Introduction

Michael Cassidy, Chairman opened the meeting

2.0 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

3.0 Declaration of interests regarding items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

4.0 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30.01.08 and matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record except that point 7.7 should have reflected that the bank signature amendment was for Anna Anderson, Director of Finance to replace Caroline Clarke as signatory.

5.0 Chairman's Report

Michael Cassidy, Chairman updated the Board on the Roots to Reckoning event last night which had been very successful. Mr Cassidy also reported on the recent governors meeting.

6.0 Chief Executive's Report

Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive informed the Board that the hospital was currently very busy with a high emergency volume. Availability of beds had been a problem, although so far there had been no cancellation of elective work. The situation had been compounded by another Trust being closed to admissions by the London Ambulance Service on a number of recent occasions which had resulted in increased emergency flows to Homerton.

Ms Hallett also updated the Board on the Controlled Parking Zone plans which now had an implementation date of April 20th. The administrative requirements were also highlighted.

Ms Hallett reported that the Fertility Unit had successfully passed a recent licensing visit from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. The business case for the proposed Fertility Unit build would be returning to Board in March.

Ms Hallett reported on the planned visit this week from the Israeli Ambassador and the High Commissioner of Grenada.

Professor Costeloe gave a verbal report to the Board on the recent visit from the Public Accounts Committee regarding Clinical Networks.

7.0 Corporate governance

7.1 NED Appointments

Pauline Brown, Director of Corporate Development reported that adverts had been placed and interviews were planned for the end of March.

7.2 Annual Health Check update

Guy Young, Director of Nursing & Quality explained that the Core Standards declaration would return to the April Board for sign off. No compliance issues were anticipated. Board members were encouraged to access the database where all the evidence against the core standards is stored. The governors were also involved in this process.

7.3 Healthcare for London draft letter of response

Michael Cassidy, Chairman presented the draft response and suggestions and comments from Board members were noted.

7.4 Annual Plan and Annual Report schedule

Pauline Brown, Director of Corporate Development presented the annual report schedule for noting. The deadline for submission to Monitor is 16th June.

7.5 Amendment to Monitor Compliance Framework Consultation

Ms Brown presented the Consultation on Amendments to the Monitor Compliance Framework. The Board considered and noted the proposed changes. The Board was particularly concerned about the Cdificile target which was noted to be unrealistic as rates at Homerton were already low. This was discussed and Guy Young, Director of Nursing & Quality and John Coakley, Medical Director explained the issues, the natural incidence and

how the required reductions translated into figures. It was agreed that this concern should be emphasised to Monitor. The consultation process closes on 16th March.

7.6 Healthcare Commission: Developing the Annual Health Check Consultation

Guy Young, Director of Nursing & Quality presented this consultation and highlighted the main issues. The Board noted the contents of the proposal. In particular the reliance on patient and staff opinion surveys was noted. The Board supported the Foundation Trust Network response to the consultation. Some additional comments were made by the Board which would be included in the Homerton response.

8.0 Business Planning & Performance Management

8.1 Update 2008/209 financial position

Anna Anderson, Director of Finance presented a progress report which highlighted current progress with agreeing plans for 2008/09, the main income changes and the changes to the contract being agreed for this year. The contract with City & Hackney and all other London PCTs would be signed tomorrow.

Ms Anderson explained that budget recosting was almost complete and cost pressures for 2008/09 were being finalised. Ms Anderson explained that the next steps would be a comprehensive financial review of 2008/09 at Clinical Board in March.

It was noted that the District Valuer was currently in the process of reassessing the value of the estate.

8.2 Draft Savings Plan ***

This item was discussed under reserve business

8.3 Finance report month 10 position

Anna Anderson, Director of Finance presented the Month 10 finance report. There was a current surplus of £3.4m and a year end forecast of a £3.5m surplus. The recent high emergency activity had led to increases in directorate expenditure on temporary staff. Monitor had confirmed a current financial rating of 4. The savings target required for next year and the continued requirement and advantages of retaining a surplus were discussed.

8.4 Performance report

Pauline Brown, Director of Corporate Development presented the performance report and the key performance indicator tracker. The Board heard about the current challenges posed by the emergency care target and the reasons for the current pressure on beds. Progress with the 18 week target, day case rates, 62 day cancer target, fertility unit rates and MRSA and Cdifficile rates were all discussed.

8.5 Perinatal development

Andrew Panniker, Director of HR & Environment reported that tenders were expected back by 10th March. The full business case would return to the Board at the end of March.

9.0 Clinical Governance

9.1 SUI Report***

This item was discussed under reserved business.

9.2 HCC lessons from investigations: Key points

The Board noted the content of the report

9.3 Director of Infection Prevention and Control DIPC quarterly report

The Board noted the contents of this first quarterly report. Questions and comments were invited. It was agreed that an exception report would be adequate in future following this comprehensive report. Guy Young, Director of Nursing & Quality updated the Board on progress with the 'deep clean programme' which currently aimed to complete by the end of April. The programme was behind schedule due to the recent Norovirus outbreak which had created pressure on beds generally.

10.0 Human Resources Governance

10.1 Employee Relations ***

This item was discussed under reserved business

11.0 Strategy and Policy

12.0 Papers for Information Only

The following papers were received and noted:

Joint Board of Directors /Council of Governors minutes of meeting 15th February 2008.

13.0 Any Other Business

None

14.0 Dates of forthcoming meetings

Wednesday 26th March 2008

Wednesday 30th April 2008