

## **Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

### **Report from the Council of Governors meeting held on June 3rd 2014**

The Chairman, Peter Wyman, discussed the Governor Elections and welcomed the new Governors. It was noted that four more Governors were still needed.

#### **Paul Mears - The Chief Executive's Report to Governors**

Monitor is currently in the process of reviewing the two year plan submitted by Yeovil District Hospital (YDH) in April 2014. There have been some discussions and questions about whether the Trust is being over optimistic in their financial projections for the next two years! Work is currently progressing on the development of the five year strategic plan, which is due to be submitted at the end of June.

#### **Stroke Review**

As part of the on-going work on Stroke Services, Dr. Elizabeth Warburton (a stroke physician from Cambridge) had recently visited YDH. She had been asked by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to review options being considered within the County. Her report was to be part of the considerations to be considered by the CCG on the reconfiguration of stroke services into one unit based in Taunton. As we now know, these services are to be based on a two centre system, at Taunton and Yeovil.

At this point it was announced that YDH will be purchasing a second CT Scanner due to the demand increasing in both emergency and elective work.

Recruitment is on going for a new Director of Elective Care. The sharing of an HR Director with Dorchester has temporarily been put on hold. It was emphasized that the aim was to continue creating a working partnership with Dorchester County Hospital.

#### **The Governors' Dashboard (copy of report in Members Room)**

There is always room for improvement but on a National Level, it is considered that these results are acceptable and where the score is 'green', they are good. At the beginning of the year there were concerns about ambulance handover times (YDH was fined on two occasions for breaches of targets). However, these are currently among the best in the South West.

#### **Report from Audit Committee:**

##### **External Audit**

The local indicator for the Quality Account is under review. The Governors chose the percentage of patients discharged before noon but the committee has been informed that this is not an auditable indicator due to the difficulty of measurement. Discharge of patients before noon remains a priority and will be monitored separately.

##### **Internal Audit**

Overall the auditors were able to provide “moderate assurance” that there is a sound system of internal control, designed to meet the Trust’s objectives and that controls are being applied consistently.

Three weaker areas are namely Data Quality, HR recruitment (especially of agency staff) and CIP controls. There are some questions in recording ‘Referral to Treatment Times’. An example is in calculations when the patient chooses not to attend an appointment.

The LCFS (Local Counter Fraud Service) presented their annual report. Five referrals were received, 3 led to criminal investigations.

### **Strategy and Performance Working Group**

The Estates Master Plan has been presented to SSDC who are very supportive. YDH have gone out to tender for a strategic estates partner for the site development and this has now been narrowed down to four groups. Meanwhile, a start has been made on the demolition of the Cheverton Site.

### **Electronic Health Record**

A supplier has been identified. This is a joint project with Gloucester and North Devon FTs, funded by central government.

Meanwhile the new VitalPac electronic observation project is being rolled out which is one step further towards a paper free hospital.

### **Performance Dashboard**

The new Governor Dashboard has been finalised with red, yellow and green coding to give an overview of the Trust performance.

It was noted out of the 11 Governors leaving only 7 will have been replaced from the recent Governor elections. A new campaign will begin at the end of the summer to fill the 4 vacancies in South Somerset.

### **Membership and Communications Working Group**

It was considered that the AGM was the time to communicate with Members of the Trust (Are you a member? See attached flyer).

After the general business of the AGM it was thought that updates on a) The Symphony Project, b) Technological Advances, Car Parking, future plans etc. were good topics for this year’s meeting.

### **Patient Experience Development Working Group**

There is a revised way of handling complaints, which has led to fewer formal complaints: this is because patients’ wishes are that complaints are handled more informally and faster.

### **Issues raised by Governors**

The Access Team are working to reduce the number of separate occasions a patient is called in for pre-operative checks; also a new discharge leaflet is being produced as a reassurance for patients.

This committee would like to suggest that the Governor Quality Indicator is once again a measure of discharge times.

The Board has done a review of its governance arrangements and it appears likely that the two remaining Governors on this committee will possibly join a new committee with a similar but wider remit.

## **Local Food Committee**

AIM: To support the local community and to provide high quality food at YDH by increasing the procurement of local food and ensuring that all food procurement meets UK animal welfare.

Roger Hayward, (the new Head of Patient Services) was welcomed to the group (He had previously worked at Circle in Bath).

An update on the Restaurant refurbishment was received. (To be known as 'The Canteen'). New menus for The Canteen have been introduced and all these meals will be freshly cooked and this provides opportunity for locally sourced ingredients and products. The number of local suppliers will be a measure of progress towards this aim.

The definition of 'locally sourced' was discussed. Originally we agreed that products produced in the South West would be considered as local. It is now proposed that the focus should be on having suppliers no further than 50 miles away.

Once the new measures are in place, it is hoped that the Bronze Level 'Food for Life' catering mark will be obtained for the restaurant from The Soil Association. The catering mark is now endorsed by NHS England.

## **News Flash!**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> June, Steamplicity will be at YDH to present their catering system. This is an innovative method of patient catering being considered by YDH to replace the current frozen meals from Apetito for patients. It's a modern day version of a pressure cooker, in which fresh vegetables, pasta, potatoes, rice, meat, fish and sauces are placed in sealed plastic packs. The meals are chilled and only cooked by microwave and steaming when required at ward level. So we'll watch this space!

**Lesley A Boucher**  
(SSDC's Appointed Governor to Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust).