Agenda Item: 21b

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

Committee Chair's Assurance Report

Report to:	Board of Directors (in Public)
Date of meeting:	5 October 2021
Title of Report:	Assurance Report from the Education, Innovation and Research Committee
Recommendation:	For assurance
Chair:	Dr Claire Fernandez, Non-Executive Director
Purpose:	The report summarises the assurances received, approvals, recommendations and decisions made by the Trust's Education Innovation and Research Committee at its meeting on **9 September 2021**
Background:	The Committee meets bi-monthly and provides assurance in respect of the effectiveness of the delivery of a high-standard of medical and multi-professional education, research and innovation at the Trust.
Item for Assurance:	**Women and Children Division Presentation** • The Committee noted the very positive presentation from the Division, representing 330 WTE staff across 3 departments. • The Division provides education for medical, nursing and midwifery staff and students in obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics and neonatology. • The Committee is assured by the return of both HEE trainees and NMS students to obstetrics and gynaecology following the lifting of the GMC conditions last year. • The Committee is assured that there is excellent involvement of senior staff in education, with the appointment of a new college tutor in paediatrics and two education leads and college tutors in obstetrics and gynaecology over the last year. • The Committee noted the challenge associated in filling all staff vacancies including the practise development midwife to ensure appropriate onward supervision of qualified staff, as well as to enable staff to attend external training. • The Committee notes the challenges and priorities for next year in particular to improve multi-professional education in maternity including midwifery involvement in medical student teaching and to ensure that the returning students and trainees in obstetrics receive a positive educational experience • The Committee was assured that there are three major trials ongoing within obstetrics/neonatology with an application in place to join a gynaecology trial into treatments for post menopausal women.

Item for Assurance	**Director of Medical Education Report** • The Committee was assured by the results of the GMC survey with an improvement in satisfaction overall compared to pre pandemic, from the 266 responses from QEH despite the extraordinary pressures that all trainees and trainers have faced. • The Committee is also assured by the significant improvement in educational supervision for which we had previously been a negative outlier, but notes the need to further improve clinical supervision particularly out of hours. • The Committee notes the requirement to submit an action plan in response to this this month. • The Committee is assured by the establishment of a central rota which has a high fill rate, though notes that the exceptionally high current clinical demand continues to put extreme pressure on existing teams. • The Committee notes that a survey has been undertaken with all clinical and educational supervisors for the first time, which will be triangulated with the results of the GMC survey and used to develop an appropriate plan to provide focused support to our educators.
Item for Assurance:	**Non-Medical Education Annual Report** • The Committee is assured by the assurance meeting planned with HEE regarding the allocation of CPD funding to target this to areas of greatest need. • The Committee is assured that the preceptorship academy is now up and running with 5 cohorts and 300 staff now commenced with a focus on team working, communication strategies, crossing the bridge from learner to registrant. • The Committee is assured by the ongoing focus on Critical care upskilling to support the ongoing pandemic. • The Committee is assured by the shortlisting of the team for a national HSJ award regarding the recruitment, pastoral support and education of international recruits and notes the ongoing focused programme planned to best support future appointees into placements.
Item for escalation:	• Whilst the Trust and College of West Anglia (COWA) are keen to launch the School of Nursing delivering the Level 5 (foundation degree equivalent) Associate Nurse Apprenticeship in January 2022, the process of gaining programme approval with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is complex. To support the registration, COWA will be working in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University (ARU). ARU will take responsibility for submitting the necessary information to the NMC as part of a 'major modification'. • The Committee is not assured by the delays to the building work of the COWA School of Nursing, but is assured that the team is working with Anglia Ruskin to ensure that the 14 students due to start their apprenticeship are not disadvantaged and can still start this course in December 2021 as planned.

Item for Assurance:	**Junior Doctors' Monthly Update** • The Committee is assured that a new representative has been appointed and that the first JDF for this academic year has been arranged for next week with the attendance of the DME, MD and guardian of safe working all confirmed.
Item for Assurance:	**Progress update against the externally commissioned report into integrated clinical education** • The Committee is assured that excellent progress has been made in addressing the recommendations of this report. 5 of 9 recommendations are now complete, with good progress made to address a further 3. • The Committee is not assured that we have been able to address the final recommendation around space and infrastructure. These were problematic prior to the pandemic, but the loss of some rooms previously used for teaching - in order to expand the facilities available for staff breaks, for the vaccination centre, and due to essential building work have compounded this. The requirements for social distancing and the planned increase in students also make this even more problematic but we note that this has been included in the case for a new hospital build.
Item for Assurance:	**Norwich medical school annual report** • The Committee is assured that 272 NMS students had placements at QEH over the past year, and notes that this is anticipated to increase by 100 over the next year. • The Committee is assured that we continue to receive outstanding feedback in some areas particularly for final year, practical placements eg anaesthetics, intensive care and acute medicine. • Good feedback was also received from placements in larger specialties and those who were able to continue high volume specialty work during the pandemic for example the emergency department, and ophthalmology. • However, the Committee notes that feedback deteriorated in several surgical specialties where the majority of teaching opportunities occur during elective work as these were heavily affected by the pandemic such as ENT, general surgery and orthopaedics. • The Committee notes that this had been a particularly challenging year for medical student teaching and notes the concerns regarding the availability of both staff and space to support increasing student numbers. • The Committee requests that the professional education forum triangulates these findings with those from Cambridge university medical school and oversees the most appropriate response to this.
Item for Assurance:	**Research Verbal update** The Committee was assured by the feedback from 10% all participants in research at QEH which indicated good understanding of patient information on clinical trials, that they are updated as to progress and findings of our research studies and that they know how to make contact if they have any

	queries. However, the Committee was not assured that the diversity of trial participants necessarily reflects our population. We note plans to address this which will be overseen by the Research and Innovation Forum and People Executive Group, and request that both participant and researcher feedback is included in future routine reports to ERIC.
Item for Escalation:	**Training Capacity** The Committee identified an emerging risk from the divisional presentation, undergraduate report and external report into integrated clinical education, related to the capacity at QEH in terms of both people and physical space to accommodate the increased number of students and trainees. This may impact on our ability to deliver the educational experience that we would like to provide.
Risks to refer to risk register:	No new risks identified for inclusion on the risk register.
Other items of business:	• None

Attendees:
C Fernandez, Non-Executive Director and Committee Chair
S Hayter, Non-Executive Director
F Swords, Medical Director
R Shekhar, Director Medical Education
P Saha, Research Lead
H Muncey, Head of Clinical Education
J Humphries, Director of People
A Hardcastle, Head of Education, Learning and Research
M Kouropis, Medical Student Lead (item 13)

Apologies:
H Geogloman, Director of Foundation Training Programme
A Bagewadi, Honorary Senior Lecturer UEA
K Owens, Deputy Head of Midwifery
C Weatherill, Practice Development Midwife
A Webster, Chief Nurse
K McGuire, Deputy Chief Nurse
E Stockmeier, Senior HCA
N Vinod-Kumar, SAS and LED Tutor
J Richardson, Medical Education Manager

Minutes:
L Preston, Board Committee Administrator (minutes)