The Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS
King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (IN PUBLIC)

SUBMITTED BY:	REPORT FOR:		IMPACT:		
Patricia Wright CEO	Decision		High	Med	Low
CONSULTATION:	Information	✓			✓
N/A	REPORT TYPE:		RELATED WORK:		
	Strategic	✓			
	Operational	✓			
	Governance	✓			
BAF ref:	1ai, 1aii, 1aiii, 1aiv, 1av, 1avi, 1a-vii				
Monitor Compliance Framework:	N/A				
CQC Essential Standard Reference:	All				
NHSLA Standard Reference:	N/A				
Media / Communications:	High level of interest				

Meeting Date: 25th February 2013
Report Title: The Report of the Francis Inquiry into events at Mid-Staffordshire NHD Foundation Trust

Purpose:

To provide the Board of Directors with a briefing on the Inquiry finding and to make recommendations for next steps in responding to the recommendations in the report.

Financial Implications / Efficiency Savings / Quality Improvement:

The report raises a number of serious failings in quality of care.

Risk Assessment:

Strategic / External	Operational/ Organisational	Financial	Clinical	Legal/ Regulatory	Reputational / Patient Experience
✓			✓		✓

Recommendations: The Board is invited to approve the next steps and receive regular updates on progress with responding to the issues raised.

The Francis Enquiry Report

Background and Context

The Healthcare Commission published a report about failings in care at The Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust in March 2009. In response to this, an inquiry, chaired by Sir Robert Francis QC, was commissioned to review care at the Trust over the period Jan 2005 – March 2009. The report of this inquiry made 18 recommendations. In June 2010, the then Secretary of State for Health announced a full public inquiry into the role of commissioning, supervisory and regulatory bodies in the monitoring of the Trust. This review was also chaired by Sir Robert Francis QC. The report of the full public inquiry was published on 6th February 2013. This report contains 290 recommendations grouped under 21 themes. A copy of the full report is available from the Trust Corporate office and copies of the executive summary have been circulated to all members of the Board of Directors.

Response to the recommendations in the Inquiry report

Members of the Board and key senior clinicians and managers met on 20 February 2013 to review the Inquiry report and consider the implications for The Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. This meeting had five objectives:

- To articulate clearly the Board's role and responsibilities in responding to the Francis Inquiry report (Feb 2013)
- To understand the key recommendations from the report and discuss their implications for the Trust and the broader health and social care environment at all levels
- To identify what is already in place that provides assurance to the Board of Directors that services are safe and of the required level of quality
- To identify work underway that addresses some of the issues in the report
- To identify and agree gaps in assurance, how these should be addresses and a timetable for action.

Summary of outputs from the meeting

- The terms of reference for the Trust Board clearly lay out the responsibility of the Board in ensuring the quality and safety of healthcare services
- The recommendations of the Francis Inquiry will have far reaching consequence for the NHS, but at this stage they are recommendations and the understanding is that the government will not formally respond until July 2013.
- The Trust responded in a proactive manner to the first Francis Inquiry, undertook a gap analysis and developed an action plan which was monitored by the Healthcare Governance committee. Any outstanding actions were subsumed into the 2010-13 Quality Strategy which has delivered significant improvements in the quality of care including reductions in mortality and infection rates.
- The 2013-14 Business Plan will continue to have a strong emphasis on quality and safety with ambitious targets being set within the revised Quality Strategy. This will include an aspiration to gain NHSLA accreditation at level 3 and CNST level accreditation at level 2. There has been additional investment in improving patient experience and the outputs from the Patient Revolution pathfinder work will be used to determine the programme of work for 2013-14.
- Further work is required to review the report in detail and identify gaps in assurance.

Next steps

The group identified four proposed themes/areas of action in response to the inquiry report:

1. Watching brief

   The Board should receive regular updates/intelligence on the response at a national level (formal or informal) to the Inquiry recommendations and take appropriate action as required. This will include formally responding once the government publishes its response to the recommendations in July 2013.

2. Immediate action

   The Board should agree any areas for action that can be addressed immediately (within the next 3 months).

3. Work underway

   The Board of Directors will receive reports via the appropriate Board sub-committee on progress with work which will strengthen the governance and board assurance framework.

4. Quality Strategy

   The Quality Strategy will be developed in the light of the recommendations from the Francis Inquiry and will be a key component of the revised Trust Strategy due for submission to Monitor in May 2013.

This work will be overseen by the Director of Patient Safety, Lead for Medical Professionals and the Director of Patient Experience, Lead for Nursing and Non-medical Professionals and co-ordinated by the Deputy Directors of Patient Safety and Patient Experience.

Recommendation

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the next steps and receive regular updates on progress.