

BOARD SUMMARY SHEET	
Title	Chief Executive's Report
Submitted by	Paul Forden – Chief Executive
Date of meeting	3 March 2010
Corporate Objectives Addressed	
SUMMARY OF CRITICAL POINTS	
PATIENT IMPACT	
STAFF IMPACT	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
RISK ASSESSMENT	
RECOMMENDATION The Board is asked to note the report.	

Summary

We continue to perform well against the national targets. The number of emergency admissions has continued to increase which has affected our performance against the 4 hour A&E target, however, I am confident that we will still achieve this target for the full year.

The Francis inquiry into the failings at Mid-Staffs NHS Foundation Trust has now released his findings. We have already commenced with a number of projects to ensure that our patients are not subject to the same risks that were found as Mid Staffs. We will bring the outcomes of these projects to future Trust Board meetings as and when they are concluded.

Other News

New day surgery unit opened

NGH has opened a new £2.3m day surgery unit to improve the experience of patients who have their operation and return home on the same day.

The unit became operational on Monday 1 February, and was officially opened by Dr John Hickey, the Trust chairman, on 25 February.

The new unit has three dedicated theatres, 15 beds, three patient assessment rooms, same sex waiting areas, and a children's and family waiting area. The new facility is used exclusively for adults requiring day case surgery, and children requiring inpatient and day case surgery. Many procedures are carried out involving specialties such as general surgery, urology, plastics, maxillofacial and dental, ear nose and throat, and ophthalmology.

Corridor refurbishment under way

Work has started on a £200k improvement to modernise more of the hospital's extensive network of corridors.

The first parts of the programme, covering the length of Hospital Street and corridors up to the Oncology Centre, were completed in July 2009. Staff, patients and visitors have all praised the brighter, cleaner environment.

Now we are extending that modernisation through to the hospital's original main entrance at Billing Road. The latest phase will take in a further 150 metres of corridor, and will be complete by early summer. It will give a totally different feel to the oldest part of our site and, as well as providing a more pleasant environment, will help us to keep the hospital clean.

There is likely to be some disruption to normal daily use of these corridors, although elements such as flooring will be carried out outside normal working hours to minimise any inconvenience. We apologise for any inconvenience visitors to the hospital may experience during these refurbishment works.

New hospital discharge team formed

A new system has been developed to improve the discharge of patients - who need additional support such as rehabilitation - so that they can go home quickly and safely.

The big change is that now the NGH Hospital Discharge Team is made up of representatives of all three organisations that are involved in discharges – including the County Council and the Primary Care Trust. Our joint aim is to help the patient to get the appropriate support to enable them to be discharged from hospital.

We know that 80% of NGH patients are able to go home without any additional support after their treatment. But the 20% who do need some additional support - such as a care worker who supports them at home - sometimes end up staying in hospital for longer than necessary.

Research has shown that if patients with additional needs are dealt with by a multi-disciplinary team the outcome for the patient is better. Planning ahead for those patients, and contacting the Hospital Discharge Team at the earliest possible opportunity, should help patients be discharged sooner from hospital.

Student nurse scheme ‘a brilliant opportunity’

NGH currently has 19 students following an Open University route to becoming a qualified nurse - a real alternative for staff who wish to continue full-time employment while training.

The programme offers a unique, flexible work-based learning route to registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. The practice element mainly takes place within the students' own workplace, and the theoretical aspect is taught through supported open learning. It offers an alternative for those students who cannot commit to typical attendance hours at university for conventional nurse training.

Interest for the programme is predominantly from established healthcare assistants (HCAs) permanently employed within the hospital. Chris Keane, who has been an HCA on Knightley Ward for about four years, explained that he could become a qualified nurse while still being fully paid, and described it as ‘a brilliant opportunity’.