Welcome to the first Chief Officer’s Board Update for 2019 featuring news and highlights from NHS Hull CCG.

**NHS Long Term Plan**

The NHS Long Term Plan launched very early in the New Year, outlining ambitious improvements for patients over the next ten years to save half a million lives. It also sets out how the NHS intends to overcome its challenges in terms of workforce and growing demand for services. There are no particular surprises in there for us as commissioners, as all the priorities are what we would expect. I welcome the emphasis on reducing health inequalities which is important for us in Hull. There will be increased investment in strengthening primary and community care and mental health which is good news.

The Plan also contains guidance around the development of Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP). Although we have only brief detail at this stage we are starting to have discussions with Hull and East Riding providers about what an ICP might look like, and how this would improve services and care pathways for patients. We have received a good financial allocation for 2020-21 although we await the forthcoming Green Paper on Social Care as additional investment in social care is much needed.

NHS England is keen that people can join in the ongoing conversation about the Long Term Plan and has committed to a programme of public engagement delivered by Healthwatch UK. You can read the full NHS Long Term Plan and executive summary at [www.longtermplan.nhs.uk](http://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk).

**Strategic update**

There have been some strategic level changes since the last update for staff. City Health Care Partnership Chief Executive Andrew Burnell is now established as the interim lead for the Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership (HCV).

I am currently deputy for the HCV Executive Group and represent both Hull and North Lincolnshire CCGs on the group, with the HCV keeping its focus on delivering constitutional targets and achieving financial stability across the patch. I have also recently taken over the Chair of the Humber Acute Services Review from former NHS England Yorks. and Humber Director Moira Dumma, and will continue the work to ensure we have sustainable hospital services that meet the population’s needs. To help take this work forward a new Director of Collaborative Commissioning will be appointed to support the Review across the four Humber CCGs.

NHS England has set a 20% reduction target for all CCG management costs by 2021. Whilst Hull CCG already operates below its running costs allowance, we do have to make further efficiencies which will mean working more collaboratively with our neighbouring CCGs where it makes sense to do so.

**Governing body elections**

The Local Medical Committee (LMC) is currently seeking expressions of interest for Hull CCG GP Governing Body members, as the terms of office for the current members are coming to an
end. Obviously it is a key time for our GP members who have done a tremendous job over the last few years and we couldn’t have been more proud of their contribution. We expect the election process to be concluded by the end of March.

Health Business Awards

The Jean Bishop Integrated Care Centre (ICC) scooped the Best NHS Collaboration Award at the national Health Business Awards in December — the third award that the ICC has picked up in three months. Judges called the ICC: ‘An innovative new facility that has the potential to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and enables residents to keep fit and healthy and living independently in their own homes.” Well done to all the partners involved.

Winter challenges

It’s been a particularly tough winter for the Emergency Department, which continues to deal with flu and norovirus, putting combined pressure on both patients and workforce. I want to thank frontline staff in health and social care and everyone at the CCG who has been working hard in and out of working hours to keep the system running through this incredibly challenging period. Last year, across the wider Yorkshire and Humber area, more than 300 people were admitted to intensive care units after catching flu and we can’t emphasise enough how important it is for those people eligible for a free flu vaccine to take up the offer. More information at www.nhs.uk

Tackling health inequalities

As part of our commitment to combat health inequalities I presented a paper at the recent Health and Wellbeing Board to highlight work on promoting ‘period dignity’ with our local public health team. I feel strongly that no one in this day and age should miss school or a day of their education. We need to work collectively to try to address the issue and support people. The paper was well received at the Board and we have recommended some options to help address the issues we have in the city.

I’m also very pleased that one of the projects that I launched under the Hull2020 banner in 2014 is still thriving and the Hull Champions programme celebrates its 100th member at a special awards event in February that recognises the difference the Champions make to communities in Hull.

Time to test

As a caring employer we want do all we can to encourage our staff to take up invitations to attend screening appointments. I signed Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust Time to Test pledge this week, promising that all CCG staff would be able to attend these important appointments within work time. There is a national focus this month on cervical cancer screening, which is a subject that is close to my heart and I talked about my own personal experience in being diagnosed with pre-cancerous cells at an early stage in a short video. Testing does save lives and, thanks to my screening appointment, I was able to successfully receive treatment at an early stage.

2019 is going to be a year of change, but as usual I expect the CCG to continue informing and influencing and shaping the agenda where we can to ensure the patients in Hull get the best services - I know everyone will be supporting me on this.

Emma Latimer
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January 2019
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