

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Date / Time: 10th July 2019, 4.00pm

Venue: Sawtry Old School Hall, Green End Road, Sawtry, PE28 5UY

Present: Chair: Val Moore. Directors: Mike Hewins, Nik Patten, Susan Mahmoud, Sue Westwood Bate, Saqib Rehman, Graham Jagger and Guarantors: Clive Morton and Victor Lucas, and CEO: Sandie Smith

Apologies: Jonathan Wells, Margaret Robinson and Frances Dewhurst

Minute taker: Carole Russell

Introduction and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting held in public following the AGM.
2. Apologies received from Directors: Jonathan Wells, Margaret Robinson and Frances Dewhurst.

Declarations of Interest

3. There were none declared relating to the agenda. A newly updated Register of Interests approved at the AGM.

Minutes of the previous meeting

4. The minutes of meeting on 8th May 2019 were agreed with no changes.
5. Point of interest raised by SM regarding the SpecSavers NHS contract. The CCG has indicated the conflict in advocating particular hearing aids whilst working on behalf of the NHS. SS commented that work is being done to develop a leaflet detailing what is available on the NHS via SpecSavers, however it is not available yet.
6. NP updated the Board on the Integrated Neighbourhood meeting he attended in Wisbech which gave him some concerns and also had some positive aspects. SS commented that it is important for Healthwatch to ensure we have the right people attending such meetings and in the North and South Alliances. SM commented that she would like to know what it means to involve the voluntary sector. NP responded that a high percentage of the 40 people who attended were from the voluntary sector. NP commented that the consideration of patient experience at the meeting was not good. SWB stated that many meetings have no mention of the patient so Healthwatch attendees need to remind them that it is about people and not all about systems. SWB offered to attend meetings in South Alliance and SM to attend meetings around Peterborough.

Action: SS to review representation at STP associated working groups

Action Log

7. All actions are completed except one action still open. SS updated that FD has been informed of the dates of Huntingdon Patient Forum.

Chair's report

8. VM introduced her report which sets out the public activities carried out by the Chair since the last Board meeting.
9. The report includes information regarding the CCG funding crisis. SS updated the Board that following the Governing Body meeting the CCG deferred their decision and are now taking further information from providers and from the patient perspective. An additional meeting has been arranged for 16th July and SS will be attending. There is likely to still be dis-investment but this has now been carefully considered. SM commented that she is impressed by The Accountable Officer who is working hard with MPs to get fairer funds to the CCG. SS stated that the CCG Integrated Performance Committee are fully conversant with the concerns.
10. VL referred to paras 6-8 of the report regarding community service cuts and the importance of getting people out of hospital at the right time. VM responded that the NHS contracts awarded to the voluntary sector and the voluntary sector grants, are different in origin and how they are handled. The acute trusts have high savings to achieve as well. VL commented that we need to consider the two together and not compartmentalise them. VM agreed that there is a need to consider statutory and voluntary services together as a whole system and that agreements for any cuts to voluntary sector run services should be reasonably applied over 3-6 months. SM commented that MacMillan are already cutting services.
11. GJ asked what this means in a strategic context as this seems to be a short-term fix. For example the digital strategy has £3m to implement but the targets have not been and cannot be met as they are too ambitious. He asked for clarity regarding the reasons for the deficit. SS responded that she will circulate details from the public meetings. VM commented that the CCG is convinced that the growth in population and amount per head is incorrect for our area, are lobbying MPs regarding this. VM commented that there is a positive conversation about prevention and self-care as well. There will be more engagement of the public as part of the CCG 'Big Conversation'.
12. The Board noted the Chair's report.

Action: SS to circulate briefing to the Board on the CCG financial crisis

Action: SS attend CCG meeting on 16th July

Chief Executive's report

13. SS introduced her report for the first quarter.
14. SS flagged some key areas for the Board to note

- The team is now complete with Miranda Knell, Engagement Manager and Kari Payne, Communications Officer, now in post.
- The draft Long Term Plan report has now gone to STP, CCG and Public Health.
- We will be continuing to facilitate the Wheelchair Forum

15. NP thanked the team for the Annual Report

Action: SS to send the draft Long Term Plan report to Board members

General Purposes Group report

16. NP updated the Board on the activities of the General Purposes Group (GPG).

17. The finance paper now includes June so is a full quarter report although the format reviewed at the GPG meeting was only to end of May.

18. SS advised that Healthwatch England has approached us to trial the new quality framework. The criteria is very close to that of Picasso/Trusted Charity but Healthwatch specific.

Action: CR to email the Board regarding vacancy on the General Purposes Group

Action: CR to arrange additional meeting in August to discuss the proposed quality framework

Finance report

19. SS advised the Board that CR will be delivering the report now with support from NP.

20. The Board had reviewed the report and were happy with the new format, which is simple to understand. There were no questions.

21. The budget position at end of the first quarter was noted by the Board.

Public questions

22. There were no further questions

VM thanked all attendees. Meeting closed at 16:50