

Report from the Accountable Officer

January 2019

It was a busy end to 2018 and the pace is unlikely to let up in 2019.

You will recall that the eight CCGs voted overwhelmingly in favour of the new collaborative arrangements across North West London towards the end of last year. NHS England formally approved the harmonised constitutions and our Joint Committee of CCGs met formally with delegated powers in December.

Shaping A Healthier Future

North West London trusts received some funding in the latest national announcement of NHS capital funding, announced in December - London North West, Imperial and CNWL all received some funding for local schemes. No funding was announced for the bids we put forward as part of Shaping A Healthier Future. We are still awaiting clarification as to the status of our bid and we have been told we will receive this in the New Year. Once we have clarification we shall be thinking about the next steps.

Financial recovery

At the last meeting, I updated you on our financial recovery plan, which has been submitted to NHS England and will be reviewed by them early in the New Year.

We have received a letter from NHSE requiring CCGs to deliver a 20% reduction in administrative costs by 2020/21. Details of expected running cost reductions at individual CCG level, in the form of resource allocation changes, and clarification on the baseline, will be contained within the annual planning guidance, which will be issued in December. We shall have to think about this, both in the context of budget setting and in the development of collaborative arrangements. I expect to set out further details on our options in the new year.

We were told in December that NHS England has taken the decision to put Harrow CCG into 'financial directions'. This is not a reflection on the leadership of the CCG, but reflects the long-standing financial challenges Harrow has faced and the fact that they are unlikely to be able to achieve their financial plan this year. NHS England will require the CCG to produce a financial recovery plan, though they were of course already doing so. There is also an opportunity to look at how we as a Collaboration of CCGs can work together and use partnership working more widely across North West London to achieve economies of scale.

Winter pressures

We have continued to work as a whole system to address increased winter pressures on the NHS. Our local urgent and emergency care boards have been closely monitoring activity and each of our provider trusts provides regular updates to directors on call.

New leadership for London's NHS

In December, myself and the other London accountable officers met with our new Regional Director, David Sloman. David and I have worked together before over the years and I have confidence he will give clear leadership to the NHS in London. He explained that he saw the five London AOs as part of his wider executive team, and we will part of his regular team meetings going forward.

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On 4th December, we had a good meeting with our Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) drawn from seven of our eight local councils. We discussed our plans for winter, the Health Based Places of Safety programme, Shaping A Healthier Future and how it complies with NHS reconfiguration tests and our Joint Committee. The next meeting is in March.

Health and care partnership/NHS ten year plan

I reported at the last meeting on some of the expected themes in the NHS Ten Year Plan. We have now been told that it is likely to published in January. This will be a key document for us as we move towards closer collaboration across the whole system – and we are already thinking about how we will work with our partners, the public and stakeholders to develop our own local version of the plan, which will be a requirement over the next few months.

As part of planning our response to this, we have asked NHS England to review our communications and engagement to date and to support our leadership and communications team in developing a robust engagement strategy. This will include working with Healthwatch, the voluntary sector and our partners in the NHS and local authorities to develop a strategy that ensures local people and communities can help to shape and influence our thinking.

Brent CCG to be our 'digital accelerator'

We have agreed that Brent CCG should be put forward as the 'digital accelerator site' for North West London. Each STP area is being asked to identify such a site, which will be funded to bring together the range of online digital solutions available to patients accessing primary and urgent care under a single NHS app. Most of the funding will go towards investment in technical infrastructure, working with a number of digital providers on the single point of access.

Staff BAME Network launched

In December, I was delighted to speak, along with Diane Jones and Ethie Kong (former Chair of Brent CCG), at the launch of our staff BAME Network. It was very good to see so many staff attend what will be an important and valuable network – there was standing room only and people queuing outside the door.

#My January campaign

The start of the New Year tends to be the time that most people begin to think about how they can better look after themselves and take steps to improve their general wellbeing.

Some people begin to feel down as the winter blues kick in and the realisation that the Christmas and New Year festivities are over. People often combat this through doing things such as making New Year resolutions, giving up alcohol for the month, stopping smoking, exercising more or eating more healthily.

In a bid to help our residents stay well, the North West (NW) London Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are launching a campaign in January 2019 that encourages the general public and NW London staff to make pledges on how they are going to take action in improving their health both physically and mentally. I will be making a personal pledge to live more healthily.

The campaign will be promoted and delivered both internally for staff and externally for the general public and will cover topics such as being more active, getting more sleep, changing negative thoughts and seeking help and support if needed.

The campaign will also seek to support Public Health England's (PHE) One You campaign and any campaigns or services being delivered by NW London local authority and NHS trust partners.

Mark Easton

Chief Officer

December 2018