

15 AUG 2012

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

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8th August 2012

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Mark Webb
Chairman – CCG Commissioning Body
Chief Executive's Office
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Dear Mark

I refer to your letter of 31st July 2012 providing formal feedback from your Governing Body and the recent review of mortality outcome performance.

In terms of the assurances which you seek:

I confirm that the Review Report will be received by the Trust Board at its meeting on 28th August 2012. I also confirm that we expect to have completed all of the Trust's formal processes by that date, including consideration by the Trust's Council of Governors and the relevant medical and nursing groups.

The Trust Board and other groups will also consider the Joint Action Plan. I understand that the second draft of the plan will be considered by the Joint Mortality Action Group at its meeting on 23rd August 2012 so it is possible that the plan will still be in draft by 28th August, in which case, it will come back to the Board for final approval once completed. I am advised that work on the Trust's contribution to the action plan is at an advanced stage and, as I said in my letter of 1st August, a number of actions are already being implemented.

You have asked me to ensure that there is appropriate contribution from the Trust to the Joint Mortality Action Group. Karen Jackson and I are absolutely clear that this is essential and confirm that Dr Liz Scott (Medical Director) and Dr Karen Dunderdale (Chief Nurse) will attend on the Trust's behalf. I understand that, after some initial confusion, meeting dates have now been agreed which they are both able to attend. While I appreciate that this is necessarily a commissioner led process it is good to see this sort of operational co-operation. I have asked to be advised directly of any issues preventing the Trust's continued effective contribution.

I note your advice on the high importance which your Governing Body attaches to this matter. I confirm that the Trust Board continues to take the issue of mortality very seriously indeed. As I set out in my earlier letter, we expect the Review Report to make a valuable contribution to the Trust's improvement strategy and I confirm that the Board will ensure that it is owned by the entire Trust. I hope that I dealt to your satisfaction with your general concerns about the Board's position on mortality and other matters in my letter of 1st August, but if not then please come back to me. As further assurance, you may be interested to know that we have established improvement in mortality as a key personal performance target for the Chief Executive and other members of the executive team.

Finally, we would like to see the review work undertaken to date extended so that both of our organisations have the fullest possible understanding of all of the issues. For example Dr Scott advises me that further work is required to review the quality of medical care and to understand the role of primary and community care. No doubt these are issues which the Joint Mortality Action Group will address in due course and which I confirm the Trust will support.

I trust that this is satisfactory but if not then please come back to me on any point. I am very happy to discuss this or any other issue at our next meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Whittingham', with a stylized 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

DR JIM WHITTINGHAM
Chairman

Cc Karen Jackson
Wendy Booth