

Summary of board papers – statutory bodies

Care Quality Commission board meeting – 19 January 2022

For more detail on any of the items outlined in this summary, please find the full agenda and papers [available online](#).

Chief executive update

Updates of interest

- Louise Ansari has been appointed the national director of HealthWatch England and will start in the next month
- Following pension assurance work by the National Audit Office, CQC have prepared to certify and lay out their annual report and accounts. The report will be laid out in parliament later this month.

Chief inspector of adult social care report

Operational priorities

- Adult social care will focus their inspection activity in three areas:
 - Inspections of emerging risk – these will be in response to emerging or inherent risk agreed as part of a management review meeting
 - Infection prevention and control (IPC) plus – these inspections use targeted methodology, using an IPC tool. They also include a workforce tool, questions about visiting arrangements and vaccinations as a condition of deployment (VOCD)
 - Inspections to create capacity in the system - inspections of services primarily rated as ‘requires improvement’ where the quality of the service has improved. By re-rating they may create additional capacity in the sector; or services that are unrated where awarding a rating will create additional capacity in the system.

Workforce

- CQC have acknowledged the staffing pressures caused by Omicron, in particular the notifications on the impact on providers to deliver regulated activities. They will continue to monitor the notifications.

Visiting

- Government guidance on visiting adult social care (ASC) care homes was published on 30 December 2021. The guidance highlights that people should have access to an essential care giver and three nominated visitors. Inspections will take place if providers are not following this guidance, with a particular concern on blanket bans
- The importance of visiting has been communicated on the external ASC provider bulletin on the CQC website on 17 December 2021.

Chief inspector of hospitals report

Update

- The CQC recognise the considerable pressure brought on from the winter pressures, the COVID-19 pandemic and staff needing to isolate. They are working with NHS England to ensure that there are no regulatory barriers to necessary risk-based plans to maintain safe care.

Inspection activity

- CQC have postponed on site regulatory activity in acute hospitals and ambulance services but are continuing to monitor risk. As a result, inspection activity is focused on the independent health sector and mental health services
- During December the CQC conducted 40 inspections and published 10 reports. Next inspections are scheduled for March although this is under review.

Chief inspector of primary medical services report

- CQC currently have 40 medical information pages to support adult social care providers. Over the last two years it has had 891,977 views of these pages
- CQC report an increase of feedback on care enquiries for GP practices. Key themes include concerns of usage from the public and stakeholder access to GPs.

Executive director of operations report

- The CQC informed the board of plans to increase capacity within the system. There had been a decrease in capacity to support the vaccine booster system in December. Training has since been given and additional inspections have commenced.

Chief operating officer report

- The CQC's business plan for 2021-24, published in August 2021, has since been updated due to operational priorities changing in December 2021. Key delivery areas are as follows:
 - 'Manage risk to people'
 - 'Ensure we offer a timely registration service which meets the needs of public and providers'
 - 'Respond to risks in a way to keep people safe'
 - 'Ensure we offer a timely registration service which meets the needs of the public and providers'
 - 'Respond to risks in a way to keep people safe'
 - 'Transform regulation of learning disability and autism'
 - 'Deliver our independent voice and key publications'

Engagement, policy and strategy directorate's report

Update of parliamentary activity

- CQC submitted written evidence to an inquiry on "workforce: recruitment, training and retention and social care" being held by the health and social care select committee. The evidence submitted focuses on whether there were enough staff with the right skills in place to support during the pandemic

Engagement updates

- Ethnicity data recording mental health - recording of ethnicity data within mental health has been added due to concerns in the CQC State of Care report on how the pandemic has highlighted inequalities in mental health services.
- Public behaviour change campaign - in January 2022 CQC will launch the "Because We All Care" campaign aimed to help gain experiences of care with CQC
- Mental Health Act annual report – Statutory annual report due to be published in January 2022
- 2021 maternity survey - the survey, which will be published in February 2022, asked women about their experiences giving birth in an NHS trust.

Health Education England (HEE) board meeting – 18 January 2022

For more detail on any of the items outlined in this summary, please find the full agenda and papers [available online](#).

Chief executive update

- Dr Navina Evans welcomed HEE's first director of people and culture, Vikki Matthews, who will lead on driving forward HEE's people agenda and ensuring HEE continues to make meaningful progress toward its ambition to be the best place to work.

COVID-19 update

- HEE is a member of the NHS England convened national incident reporting board, and its internal COVID oversight group is also meeting weekly to ensure HEE understands and can respond to regional and national developments
- HEE regions are working closely with NHSE/I to support surge/Nightingale capacity across systems
- Staffing challenges are being seen across all systems with absences close to 10-12% in some areas. There are resilience and emergency contingency plans in place to be enacted as a rapid response to these pressures locally and modelling is being undertaken to indicate when peaks will occur, demonstrating different regional dates throughout January
- Redeployments are discussed and confirmed with postgraduate (PG) dean teams to ensure safe supervision of trainees
- Vaccination capacity is currently greater than demand, although capacity is being retained in anticipation of increased demand.

Medical education COVID-19 recovery programme

- HEE published its interim training recovery report (October 2021) summarising the range of interventions put in place and their impact since the start of the pandemic
- This latest wave of the pandemic is again impacting on training, and training recovery, partly due to limited redeployments, but mainly through a lack of opportunity for supervised learning in elective care, access to clinics and doctors working additional hours in new rotas.

Vaccination update

- The vaccination programme is exploring dynamic ways that staff and volunteers can be deployed to support the booster expansion and to release pressure on the wider NHS workforce:

- Maximising the use of clinical model for non-qualified vaccinators, to help release staff for NHS and use of skill mix development
- Medium term work on a model for future of vaccination delivery model – with HEE working with vaccination team to develop

Spending review update

- Good progress has been made to finalise the HEE activity plans and budget for 2022/23. This process continues to be led through trilateral discussions with NHSE and DHSC to ensure resources are allocated to the best balance of short- and long-term NHS priorities
- HEE will publish indicative plans as soon as it has final ministerial approval, to assist with system planning
- HEE has also worked closely with DHSC and NHSE on reforms to national education and training tariffs that rebalance funding and address inequity. These are expected to be approved and announced by DHSC shortly.

HEE mandate 2022/23

- The transition of HEE into NHSE/I suggests that the 2022/23 mandate should focus on that year alone, as a year of planning and transition to this new organisation
- HEE believe it important that the mandate covers the aspirations of the government's manifesto commitments including additional registered nurses, GPs and primary care professionals
- It should also support the continuing response to COVID-19, the recovery of elective services, progress in delivering the service priorities set in the NHS long term plan, long term workforce planning and taking forward reforms to professional education.

Long term strategic framework for the health and social care workforce

- HEE is leading this programme of work in close collaboration with NHSE/I, DHSC, Skills for Care and other key stakeholders
- The second of three deliberative events took place on 9 December
 - Early highlights include that technology will play an increasingly important role but is not a silver bullet; that we need to continue to think differently and radically about the shape of the future workforce including the informal workforce and that we need to do more to support all parts of the workforce to create parity of esteem between roles and sectors, which in turn will drive recruitment and retention

Technology enhanced learning (TEL)

- Elearning for healthcare (elfh): The milestone of 2 million registered users on the elfh was reached at the end of 2021 and there were 14,506 new enrolments in December 2021 onto the COVID vaccination programme
- Digital learning solutions: Provides a platform that hosts national digital literacy training content and locally developed clinical systems learning
- Simulation and immersive technologies: All regions are engaged with the speciality training gap (STG) work training recovery and have proposals on how STG/extended reality can support the training gaps
- The virtual and hybrid learning faculty has been developed to support those in the education community to increase their impact, confidence and capabilities when designing, developing, and delivering virtual and hybrid learning.

Making research matter - launch of chief nursing officer (CNO) for England's strategic plan for research

- On Monday 22 November, NHSE/I published the CNO for England's strategic plan for research, developed in partnership with stakeholders across the health and care system including HEE
- It sets out the CNO's ambition to "create a people-centred research environment that empowers nurses to lead, participate in, and deliver research, where research is fully embedded in practice and professional decision-making, for public benefit".