

Summary of board papers – statutory bodies

Care Quality Commission (CQC) board meeting – 14 December 2022

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

Executive team update

Regulatory matters

- The CQC submitted their draft methodology for integrated care systems (ICSs) and local authority assessment to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care early in November 2022 and are currently waiting for confirmation of approval

Urgent and emergency care (UEC)

- The CQC are contributing to the efforts of the NHS Winter Plan by establishing an innovation hub which will allow inspectors to discuss improvement innovations with senior colleagues and ensure consistent, safe decisions around innovation

Mental Health Services

- In response to recent undercover reports in mental health services, CQC are continuing to develop an observation-based methodology, with the involvement of people with lived experience, as well as their equality, health inequalities and human rights team with the aim of being able to help identify where closed cultures and restrictive practices impact negatively on people's human rights

Maternity services

- An inspection programme is underway with the aim of inspecting all acute maternity services which have not been inspected and rated since April 2021. The CQC aim to have this programme completed by May 2023
- They will be engaging with service users, partners and the maternity workforce to capture their views and experiences and investing in research to enhance the view of safety cultures in maternity services
- Once the programme of inspections has been completed, the CQC will be sharing their findings and what has been working well to help encourage wider learning across services

Organisational matters

- The CQC welcomed two new directors in October, Chris Dziki, director of mental health and Scott Durairaj, director of integrated care, inequalities and improvement
- The CQC conducted 900 inspections in November and 3,427 registration applications were completed
- This financial year, 97% of safeguarding alerts have been referred within the timescales stipulated in the CQC's key performance indicator (KPI)
- Also in this financial year, 95% of whistleblowing alerts have had action taken within five days, which meets CQC's KPI of 95%.

Healthwatch England (HWE) quarterly report

- In response to numerous reviews into maternity services over the past few months, HWE published an [evidence review](#), taking into account 2,500 experiences of maternity care
- HWE have published a [blog](#) detailing where people are going for advice and information about social care support and identifying areas for improvement
- A new data sharing platform has passed the testing stage and will be used to receive data from all Healthwatch locations across England. This work will enhance HWE's ability to use the analysis of national data to inform health and care
- HWE have begun work to help the Healthwatch network support health and social care services this winter by
 - using the experiences that people share with us to help services spot and address issues
 - providing advice that helps people stay well and use services most effectively
 - supporting the broader community response to protect the health of our communities
- The director of HWE highlighted an example of the valuable work that local Healthwatch's are undertaking, referring to Healthwatch Sunderland and their ongoing work with a patient with learning disabilities in developing easy read call back letters to be used by local cancer services.

National Guardian's Office update

- The National Guardian's Office was set up in October 2016 as part of recommendations from the [Francis Freedom to Speak Up Review \(2015\)](#). The office leads, trains and supports a network of 'Freedom to Speak Up Guardians' in England and conducts Speak Up reviews to identify learning and support improvements to the culture in the healthcare sector

- Since the office's last update to the board in June 2022, there are now more than 900 Freedom to Speak Up Guardians who have handled over 75,000 cases across the healthcare sector to date, allowing workers to speak up who might otherwise not be heard
- Recent reviews into maternity and mental health services have underlined what Freedom to Speak Up Guardians have shared: that not all workers in health services feel safe enough to raise matters of concern, or that they feel the matters they raise don't get the quality response they would like. The office welcomes work being undertaken in culture transformation programmes and wants to ensure a speak up culture remains a priority across all health organisations.

Health Education England (HEE) board meeting – 14 December 2022

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

Chief executive's update

- In preparation for industrial action, the Gold Command for emergency planning has begun meeting weekly. Executive directors and regional directors also meet weekly to ensure coordination and alignment of information sharing across national and regional levels. The priority remains to support providers in areas where colleagues have voted to participate in strike action and ensuring patient safety during strike dates
- HEE has hit the government target for increased GP specialty trainee recruitment every year since 2015, with more than 40,000 new recruits accepting places to begin specialist general practice training in 2022/23. There was acknowledgement from the board that whilst the recruitment data is promising, more work is required around the retention agenda for general practice
- New figures released by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that English universities offered places to 29,440 nursing applicants this year. There were 56,155 applications to study nursing in 2023, the second highest figure on record
- Board members questioned whether there was a cap on the number of nurses that can be trained, as there remains a large shortfall in nursing staff. There was assurance that whilst there is no theoretical cap on the number of nursing university places, there is a restraint on the number of practical nursing placements that can be offered (within the region of 33,000 –

35,000) due to staffing levels and hospital training capabilities, which reduces a university's ability to take on more students

- As part of the digital first programme, which was created to support HEE staff in applying digital practices in their day-to-day work, the first joint HEE, NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Digital (NHSD) training session has been run for 20 service owners.

Performance and business committee report

- A deep dive into mental health was undertaken using the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme as an example
- The committee explored the challenges faced in taking the programme from strategic vision to delivery. It was noted that the work already involves close working links with NHSE, and HEE is looking to further maximise the relationships with integrated care boards (ICBs) and opportunities offered by alternative ways of working.

People and culture committee report

- There are many positive equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) initiatives happening regionally and nationally however recent workforce race equality standard (WRES) data reported the prospect of a white person getting appointed by HEE is 1.68 times higher than a person from an ethnic minority background
- The committee discussed arrangements for HEE's merger and their work to ensure that there is fairness within the process and that appointments are being made through an EDI lens
- The board were informed that there are support networks in place for staff during the transition process and the committee team were instructed to encourage staff to engage with those support offers.

Audit and risk committee report

- The committee recognise the importance of the handover and legacy leading into transition to the new NHSE
- It was agreed that additional meetings be scheduled in the months in between formal committee meetings to specifically focus and manage the committee's handover and legacy
- The committee also aims to influence the accountable officer handover, as they recognise that the governance arrangements for the new organisation are yet to be determined.

Quality committee report

- The committee's work continues to align quality of education and training to the workforce training and education directorate in the new NHSE, ensuring the regional design work and the approach to education and training is consistent in the planned discharge to regions
- Members were provided assurances that significant work was underway to support quality improvement across education and training within maternity services to support the [Ockenden workforce educators strategy](#). A further progress report will be brought back to the quality committee in February 2023.

NHSE/HEE transition report

- Eight out of nine HEE workstreams have completed due diligence, the people and culture team are working to ensure the delivery of their due diligence milestones, including having individual job descriptions for colleagues within the organisation
- Day one readiness has been further complicated with NHSD now merging with NHSE in January 2023. To ensure sufficient resource and expertise is retained to manage the remaining redesign and transfer to the new operating model post 1 April 2023, ongoing funding and resource planning will need to be considered
- The merger has benefited from the fact that key operational systems within HEE are the same within NHSE, making them easier to align
- An internal audit will be taking place to examine how the transition programme has been governed
- Board committees are encouraged to have a record of legacy documents ready and in order by the end of March 2023, to ensure that HEE has a record of all committees and audits that they can refer to. This will also help the organisation to map against where outstanding items will go in the new NHSE governance framework.

Finance report

- The overall HEE budget, as agreed with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), is £5.4 bn of which £5,383m is programme funding and £62m is admin funding. Within this budget includes the funding from NHSE to pay for additional Long Term Plan (LTP) investments
- Financial reporting will continue to the HEE Board and committees until the end of the financial year with a quarter three report due to be presented to the board in March 2023. Reporting will then switch to the NHSE Board who will be responsible for the end of year HEE

annual report and accounts. The HEE director of finance is helping NHSE to ensure appropriate transition and will report on this to the HEE audit and risk committee

- There is some risk to delivering HEE's desired year end position to come within 0.5% of their expenditure budgets, as there is significant data that is yet to be analysed, such as student intakes for the new academic year that began in September 2022. This data will be included in the quarter three financial report and HEE is confident that they will continue to match their desired end of year financial position
- Earlier in the financial year, HEE accepted 75% of NHSE funding that is available to them, the director of finance informed the board that the quarter three financial report will show an income reduction, as HEE has decided not to draw the remaining 25% of their NHSE funding allocation. This income reduction will not affect the delivery of any HEE activity plans.

Performance report

- There is a high level of confidence that the 4,000 GP speciality training place target will be met to support the government's commitment for an additional 6,000 doctors in primary care by March 2024
- There were 69,555 active nursing students as of June 2022, of which 43,450 (62%) are expected to complete by March 2024 and enter the nursing workforce
- Challenges for clinical student numbers are beginning to emerge and local intelligence suggests a combination of economic factors and NHS service pressures are reducing training uptake
- The chief operating officer highlighted that in the south east and south west of England, there is a significant number of students who have been offered places on nursing programmes but they have declined their place due to concerns around studying during the current economic environment. This is particularly evident in nursing pathways that are typically undertaken by mature students, such as mental health nursing
- The board highlighted that colleagues are including these factors as workforce risks in their long term plans and agreed there is a need to keep these risks under regular review to assess whether it is a long lasting trend
- There are some risks to the delivery of training in healthcare science and apprenticeships compared to the 2022/23 original plan for cancer and diagnostics due to a combination of service pressure reducing capacity for training, and in some cases local demand not reflecting national assumptions made at the planning stage
- HEE is on track to train more than 3,000 advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) in academic year 2022/23.