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| Report to: | Board of Directors | | | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 29 April 2015 | | | | |
| Report Title: | Chairman's Briefing | | | | |
| Status: | For information | Discussion | Assurance | Approval | Regulatory requirement |
| Mark relevant box with X | X | | | | |
| Prepared by: | Michael Luger, Chairman | | | | |
| Executive Sponsor (presenting): | N/A | | | | |
| Appendices (list if applicable): | None | | | | |
| Purpose of the Report | | | | | |
| To inform the Board of the Chairman's activities. | | | | | |
| Action required of the Board of Directors | | | | | |
| To receive and note the report | | | | | |

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| Key points for information |
| <p>This Report comes at the end of the financial year, 30 April, and just three weeks before a national election (7 May). Both dates have significance for us. As a business, 30 April is a day of financial reckoning: we'll want to have closed the year in as good a position as possible. As a public service, 7May may be a day of political reckoning: the outcome may change the prospects for the entire NHS.</p> <p>I know (and appreciate) that Andrew has been working hard on the year-end accounts. Given our (small) size, the challenges our local health economy has faced, and the pressures all secondary care providers have been under this winter, this has not been easy. We have seen many trusts across England struggle.</p> <p>The election creates uncertainty for all of us. Not surprisingly, the NHS is one of the central issues in all parties' manifestos. The good news is that everyone is committed to saving the NHS in the long run, but it is not fully clear how the various proposals would pan out. As David Nicholson said over the weekend, whatever may happen in the longer-run, we still have short-term sustainability to worry about. And in the longer-run, there is no silver bullet in any of the manifestos. We are likely to still need to work on efficiencies through integrated care and the application of technology.</p> <p>Whilst talking about politics, I understand that our staff seemed to enjoy the visit last week of Ed Miliband and Andy Burnham to the hospital. The decision of Labour leadership to come here is one further indication of our growing national prominence. Apparently, there are some key Parliamentary contests in this part of the UK, including the seat held by Kris Hopkins (Keighley), who is a regular visitor to the hospital. When Kris came in March, he was taken on a tour of our new A&E facility.</p> <p>I continue to do what I can to elevate ANHSFT within the broader health economy. On 20 April, I was in York for an eight-way meeting of Yorkshire Chairs, at which we wished Alan Rose (York's Chairman) a fond farewell. We discussed a wide range of issues, including ways for secondary care providers to work together effectively. And on 22 April I went to Wakefield for an induction from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. I found that extremely helpful and have brought back some insights about clinical handover, 1-1-1 service, 9-9-9 service, and passenger transport.</p> <p>I continue to enjoy my interaction with the Governors. Last week I participated in a meeting of the Governors' Evaluation Committee – which looks at ways to assess the Council's effectiveness.</p> |

Sarah Shepherd had done a session with them on effectiveness, which seemed quite useful and well-received. Then Jane and I attended the full Network meeting, participating in a discussion of the hospital's complaints process. The Governors seem interested in advancing my idea to create a few cross-cutting Governor-NED committees, on such topics as "The Patient Experience," "The Changing Health Economy," and "Membership, Diversity, and Community Relations." The purpose is to engage the Governors meaningfully and to connect them with NEDs on substantive issues.

Of course, another Governor-NED committee that already exists is ARC, and that is in full swing with the recruitment of a NED. Our meeting in March went well, finalising the advertisement plan and timetable. Applications are now being submitted, with a long-listing meeting of ARC on 14 May, a short-listing meeting on 1 June, and formal interviews on 17 June.

Recommendations

To receive and note the Chairman's Briefing.