

NHS England Accountability Meeting

Tuesday 14 October 2014

11:30-12:30

MINUTES

Department of Health
Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health (Chair)
Norman Lamb, Minister of State for Care Services
George Freeman, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Life Sciences
Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality
Una O'Brien CB, Permanent Secretary
Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer
Richard Douglas CB, Director General, Finance and NHS
Ben Dyson, Director, NHS Group
Russell Hamilton, Director, Research and Development
Ed Jones, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State
Kristen Mcleod, Principal Private Secretary, Secretary of State for Health
Head of NHS England Sponsorship (Secretary)
NHS England Sponsorship team members
NHS England
Professor Sir Malcolm Grant, Chair
Simon Stevens, Chief Executive
Paul Baumann, Chief Financial Officer
Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, National Medical Director
Ian Dodge, National Director, Commissioning Strategy
Tom Easterling, Director of the Chair and Chief Executive's Office
System Alignment Team Member

Agenda item 1: matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting on 22nd July 2014

Specialised commissioning

1. SIMON STEVENS gave an update on proposals to increase patient benefit through increased CCG involvement in specialised commissioning of patient pathways and ensure that commissioning decisions take place at the appropriate level.
2. The SECRETARY OF STATE expressed his support for greater engagement of CCGs in specialised commissioning.

ACTION – NHS England to continue to work with DH to develop its proposals for 2015/16 and beyond.

Transforming Care

3. NHS England had previously discussed with DH its plans for delivery of its Transforming Care Concordat commitments, and this would be discussed further at a separate meeting.
4. The MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE SERVICES asked NHS England to ensure collaborative working at a local and regional level within the organisation, including with local authorities and other stakeholders. Further work was also needed from NHS England on the right of patients to challenge a clinical decision.
5. SIMON STEVENS noted that there were two strands to NHS England's work: identifying and case managing those individuals appropriate to be transferred from inpatient settings; and the design of future service models.

ACTION – NHS England to deliver an established programme with tangible progress made within the next six months.

Agenda item 2: Mandate Assurance: Research

6. The PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LIFE SCIENCES expressed the Government's commitment to driving the research and innovation agenda forward and making the NHS a test-bed for the adoption of new innovation and technology.
7. The CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER noted that further action was needed to increase levels of participation in research and to use commissioning as a means of both adopting the evidence from research and identifying potential areas for further research. She also noted the importance of NHS England's work to develop a clear and effective standard operating procedure for the payment of Excess Treatment Costs, and engagement with stakeholders in developing this, and expressed a wish that it be published during 2014.
8. PROFESSOR SIR BRUCE KEOGH outlined NHS England's current work in the area. He noted the importance of all health arm's length bodies working collaboratively to ensure a joined-up approach.
9. The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH asked that NHS England develop a plan setting out clearly how it would deliver its research objective. The plan should cover NHS England's contribution to the areas highlighted by the CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER and set out how NHS England would support Clinical Commissioning Groups to deliver their statutory duties to promote research.

ACTION – NHS England to share a plan with DH by the end of the year.

Agenda item 3: Planning for 2015/2016

10. NHS England was developing updated planning guidance for commissioners for 2015/16.
11. The PERMANENT SECRETARY noted the need for timely publication of the planning guidance, given the impact on local commissioners' operational plans.
12. There was a discussion about the financial position for 2015/16.

ACTION – DH and NHS England to work together on an agreed assessment of the financial position and provide an update at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Finance

13. PAUL BAUMANN noted that NHS England is currently completing work on its month 6 position for 2014/15, which would facilitate further discussion at the next accountability meeting.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

14. The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH asked what action NHS England would be taking to ensure full compliance with procurement processes and spending controls. PAUL BAUMANN explained that NHS England was putting in place a procurement improvement process across the organisation, but that a number of the items not subject to those controls to date related to one-off circumstances that would not be repeated.
15. The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH thanked NHS England for its work on contingency planning for the NHS strike action the previous day and for its work with Monitor and the Trust Development Agency on preparations for winter.
16. The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH asked NHS England to continue to work with other partners in the health system to support providers in responding to any potential cases of Ebola.