

## NHS England Accountability Meeting

Tuesday 21 January 2014

16:10-17:10

### MINUTES

<b>Department of Health</b>
Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health
Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality
Una O'Brien CB, Permanent Secretary
Richard Douglas, Director General, Finance and NHS
Ed Jones, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State
Christina Robinson, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State
Paul Harrison, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State
Emily Frith, Special Adviser to the Minister of State for Care and Support
Kristen Macleod, Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
Gareth Arthur, Deputy Director, Commissioning Policy and Sponsorship
Head of NHS England Sponsorship
Policy Manager, NHS England Sponsor Team (Secretary)
<b>NHS England</b>
Professor Sir Malcolm Grant, Chair
Sir David Nicholson, Chief Executive
Dame Barbara Hakin, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive
Bill McCarthy, National Director, Policy

#### Agenda item 1: matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting on 18 December 2013

1. Owing to the time constraints, THE SECRETARY OF STATE asked for discussion on the matters arising from the previous meeting to be carried forward to the next meeting.

#### Agenda items 2 and 3: specialised commissioning and NHS financial sustainability

2. The discussion focused on longer term trends in specialised commissioning and the impact this might have on NHS financial sustainability. THE SECRETARY OF STATE asked for NHS England's views on why spending on specialised services was increasing more rapidly than spending on other NHS services. DAME BARBARA HAKIN explained that there had been greater activity than planned, implementation of common service access thresholds, and significant technological advances in this

area, and that new procedures added to cost pressures. New devices and drugs were a big driver of costs.

3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE asked what the scope was for improving efficiency. SIR DAVID NICHOLSON explained that some types of savings were possible across all health services, e.g., better procurement. However, other services had scope to both improve patient care and deliver efficiencies through greater integration and use of primary and community care. This did not exist for specialised services.
4. DAME BARBARA HAKIN commented that the starting point with making changes to specialised commissioning had to be improvements to quality. SIR DAVID NICHOLSON explained that NHS England was putting together national specifications to ensure that local services were consistently safe and of high quality. An effect of this would be to concentrate specialised services in centres of expertise which would drive up quality and safety, as well as improve efficiency.
5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE also highlighted the importance of the Better Care Fund to drive integration of health and care services. BILL MCCARTHY agreed and commented that CCGs were focused on making the Better Care Fund work for the benefit of patients.

#### Agenda item 4: Mandate assurance

6. Owing to the time constraints, THE SECRETARY OF STATE asked for a note on progress with Mandate objectives 4 (supporting patients with long term conditions), 16 (supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disability) and 17 (NHS Constitution rights and pledges).

ACTION: NHS England to forward a note.

7. THE SECRETARY OF STATE underlined the importance the Government attached to making progress on establishing parity of esteem between mental and physical health and asked for NHS England to present a paper at the next discussion setting out how real progress would be made towards parity of esteem. PROFESSOR SIR MALCOM GRANT commented that there was a lot happening and there would need to be sufficient time set aside to talk through it all.

ACTION: Meeting secretariat to add to the agenda for the next meeting. NHS England to prepare a paper.

#### Agenda item 5: Any other business

8. There was no other business.