

## NHS England Accountability Meeting

Tuesday 7 May 2013

16:00-17:00

### MINUTES

<b>Department of Health</b>
Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health
Norman Lamb MP, Minister of State for Care and Support
Una O'Brien CB, Permanent Secretary
Richard Douglas, Director General, Strategy, Finance and NHS
Gareth Arthur, Deputy Director, Commissioning Policy and Sponsorship
Kristen McLeod, Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
Policy Manager, NHS England Sponsor Team (Secretary)
<b>NHS England</b>
Professor Malcolm Grant, Chair
Bill McCarthy, National Director: Policy
Tom Easterling, Director, Office of the Chair and Chief Executive

#### Welcome

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE welcomed colleagues from NHS England to the meeting.
2. PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT commended all those who had worked to ensure the transition to the new health and care system. THE SECRETARY OF STATE agreed.

#### Agenda item 1: progress against mandate

3. THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE AND SUPPORT underlined the importance the Government attached to the commitment to improve access to psychological therapies. PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT said NHS England was equally committed and plans were being kept under review.
4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE asked for an update on the commitment to provide intensely moderated radiotherapy at 50 centres. RICHARD DOUGLAS explained that progress was on track to deliver the commitment by December 2013. THE SECRETARY OF STATE asked for a month by month delivery plan broken down by individual centre.
5. RICHARD DOUGLAS explained that the Department was working closely with NHS England on the business case for setting up two new proton beam therapy centres. THE SECRETARY OF STATE commented that the number of patients receiving

treatment abroad was lower than the 400 maximum commitment, but noted that the number receiving treatment would depend on need.

6. THE SECRETARY OF STATE underlined his commitment to increasing the health visitor workforce by 4,200 by April 2015. He asked NHS England to consider the current trajectory and delivery plans and let him know if they had any concerns about delivery.
7. On the friends and family test, THE SECRETARY OF STATE recognised that NHS England had made a good start by delivering the rollout to acute inpatient and A&E services by April, and expressed his preference for plans to be kept simple as the rollout progresses.
8. On NHS 111, BILL MCCARTHY explained that performance continued to improve, and NHS England was keeping a close eye on progress. THE SECRETARY OF STATE noted that in the public's mind there was no difference between the 111 service and out of hours GP services – there was a need to ensure quality care from both services.

ACTION: Sponsor team to work with NHS England to agree plan for regular reporting

#### Agenda item 2: A&E and vulnerable older people plan

9. THE SECRETARY OF STATE acknowledged that there was an immediate issue around improving performance against the four hour A&E waiting time standard, and also a long term issue about how the increase in demand might be managed. This had complex causes, but GPs had a role to play, particularly in the way they managed long term conditions. BILL MCCARTHY said that plans in place now had the right balance of ambition, challenge and operational scrutiny.

ACTION: RICHARD DOUGLAS and BILL MCCARTHY to agree future work plan.

#### Agenda item 3: CCG authorisation

10. THE SECRETARY OF STATE recognised the progress with CCG authorisation and asked for an update on commissioning support units (CSUs). BILL MCCARTHY explained that NHS England's aim was to ensure on-going availability of support whilst leaving autonomy for CCGs to make their own choices.

ACTION: NHS England and the Department to keep commissioning support under review.

#### Agenda item 4: spending review

11. The upcoming spending review was discussed.

ACTION: The Department to continue to liaise with NHS England and ensure this is reflected in the mandate process.

Agenda item 5: Francis report

12. THE SECRETARY OF STATE said that plans for implementing the proposals set out in the Government's response were broadly on track. The Care Quality Commission was due to issue a public consultation on changes to the inspection regime in June.