

## Monitor Accountability Meeting

**Date:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013

**Time:** 11am – 12.15pm

**Attendees:**

<b>Department of Health</b>
The Rt.Hon. the Earl Howe, Parliamentary-under-Secretary of State for Health
Ian Dodge, Director, NHS Policy and Outcomes
Claire Stoneham, Deputy Director, Provider Policy
Oliver Entwistle, Senior Policy Advisor, Economic Regulation
Stephen Jones, Private Secretary to the Parliamentary-under-Secretary of State for Health
<b>Monitor</b>
David Bennett, Chair and Chief Executive
Helen Buckingham, Chief of Staff
Toby Lambert, Director of Policy and Strategy

### Accountability meeting minutes

The meeting began with THE MINISTER welcoming DAVID BENNETT to the first accountability meeting between DH and Monitor of the 2013/14 financial year.

#### **Agenda item 1 – Provider policy**

- a) **Mid Staffordshire** – DAVID BENNETT provided THE MINISTER with an update on the progress of the special administrator, focussing on the special administrator's efforts to secure the maximum level of service possible for patients.

He also advised THE MINISTER that the consultation on next steps would be laid before the House on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July, with the consultation running until September.

- b) **Peterborough** – DAVID BENNETT provided THE MINISTER with an update on Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Foundation Trust. This update included setting out the findings of the Contingency Planning Team that Peterborough and Stamford was both clinically and operationally sustainable but not financially sustainable due, largely to a high cost PFI contract. DAVID BENNETT then set out the proposed next steps to improve the performance of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Foundation Trust.
- c) **Milton Keynes/Bedford** – THE MINISTER and DAVID BENNETT discussed the issues in Milton Keynes and Bedford, where both providers are in financial difficulty. Monitor, NHS England, and the Trust Development Authority are

working closely together on next steps to ensure continuity of services for local communities, whilst improving their financial performance.

- d) **Keogh review** – THE MINISTER and DAVID BENNETT discussed the Keogh Review, in particular the Foundation Trusts that are in special measures and the strong regulatory actions that are being undertaken by Monitor and others. The focus is on ensuring that quality is improved, that performance is rapidly turned around, and that financial management is enhanced. Officials are currently working on a project to define more closely what is meant by special measures and set clearer qualification criteria. Officials will report back to Ministers shortly.
  
- e) **Financial position of Foundation Trusts** – DAVID BENNETT provided THE MINISTER with an update on the overall effectiveness of Foundation Trusts, and, Monitor's on-going efforts to improve financial forecasting within Foundation Trusts. It was agreed that as this is an important issue, the overall performance of the Foundation Trust sector should be discussed in more detail at a separate meeting.

## **Agenda item 2 – Economic Regulator functions**

- a) **Fair Playing Field Review** – DAVID BENNETT provided THE MINISTER with an update on the steps Monitor are taking to progress the findings of the Fair Playing Field Review. He also advised THE MINISTER that Monitor are planning on producing a one year on report covering progress on the recommendations.
  
- b) **Choice, competition and mergers** – THE MINISTER thanked DAVID BENNETT for Monitor's work on the section 75 regulations. THE MINISTER and DAVID BENNETT then discussed progress on choice, competition and mergers including plans for joint work between the Department, Monitor, the TDA, and the Office for Fair Trading on the approach to competition and mergers.

DAVID BENNETT then provided THE MINISTER with an update on two reviews that Monitor are currently conducting – the walk in centres review and the review of the market for GP services.

## **Agenda item 3 – Organisational issues**

- a) **Procurement** – THE MINISTER requested details on the use of high value contractors in Monitor and their timetable for ending these contracts. In response, DAVID BENNETT set out that the use of contractors had gone on

for longer than planned due to the delay in the Health and Social Care Act, which had knock on effects to their transition plans. However, the number of contractors employed by Monitor is falling quickly and will continue to fall.

- b) Appointment of a Medical Director** - DAVID BENNETT provided an update on efforts to recruit a permanent Medical Director. Monitor have found a suitable candidate and are currently in discussions with the Department about terms and conditions for the successful candidate.

#### **Agenda item 4 – Stakeholder relationships**

- a)** THE MINISTER and DAVID BENNETT discussed relationships between the Department and Monitor, which are performing well. This was followed by a discussion about how Monitor is working with the rest of the Health and Care system.

#### **Agenda item 5 – forthcoming announcements**

- a)** THE MINISTER reminded DAVID BENNETT of the continuing need to work with the Department on ensuring that we are able to operate a no surprises relationship together.