



Department of Health

Minutes

Title of meeting NHS Trust Development Authority Q4 Ministerial Accountability Meeting

Date 14 July 2015 **Time** 11:30am

Venue Richmond House 417

Chair Lord Prior **Secretary** Douglas Hamilton

Attendees Lord Prior, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Productivity (PS(P))

Tim Jones, Deputy Director for NHS Policy, Head of Economic Regulation (TJ)

Bevan Boyle, NHS TDA Sponsorship Team (BB)

Douglas Hamilton, NHS TDA Sponsorship Team (DH)

Ilaria Regondi, Senior Private Secretary to Earl Howe (IR)

Rhia Roy, Assistant Private Secretary to Earl Howe (RR)

Attendees – NHS TDA

Sir Peter Carr, NHS TDA Chairman (PC)

Bob Alexander, NHS TDA interim Chief Executive (BA)

Ralph Coulbeck, NHS TDA Director of Strategy (RC)

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

PS(P) opened the meeting by welcoming NHS Trust Development Authority (NHS TDA) colleagues, introducing himself and outlining his aspirations and responsibilities. PC said that he looked forward to working with PS(P) and assured him that NHS TDA were aware of the challenges ahead.

Item 2 – Overview of 2014/15

PS(P) asked BA to reflect on the previous financial year. BA said that NHS TDA had continued to be committed to driving improvement in NHS trusts and had worked effectively with the sector to this end. Whilst financial performance had varied across the sector, the general position had been challenging. BA remarked that this was a reflection of the challenges faced by the provider sector as a whole. A number of key performance indicators had been challenging at times throughout the year and TDA had been effective in shoring up performance against them. The work on RTT had been particularly successful although achieving target remained challenging.

BA went on to give an overview of the trusts that had entered and exited the Special Measures regime during the course of year and made the general observation that the processes that formed the regime were well developed and effective. BA also remarked that there had been a number of transactions during the year and that NHS TDA's expertise in that area had also strengthened. BA went on to say that it had been pleasing to see the Foundation Trust Pipeline beginning to move again. PS(P) thanked NHS TDA for their work with the NHS trust sector.

Item 3 – The year ahead

PS(P) asked BA whether he saw the standardisation of processes across NHS provider organisations as being part of the approach that should be taken to confronting the financial challenge. BA said that good processes tended to be translatable and that there was scope for this within providers. He mentioned work that the organisation would be undertaking with Virginia Mason (VM), an American hospital renowned for its efficiency, safety and quality, to spread their approach in the NHS. BA said that this would not lead to quick efficiencies but that once imbedded the effects were likely to be significant. PC remarked that a number of trusts had been selected to work with VM and that they were enthusiastic about the opportunity.

PS(P) asked BA how work with Monitor to establish a shared operational approach was progressing. BA said that he was working closely with David Bennet to shape the future operating model and that both organisations acknowledged the problems faced by their respective sectors were the same and that, as such, the improvement and support offer they received should reflect this. BA said that working more closely with Monitor would be an opportunity to devise a model that would meet the needs of providers more effectively and in a way that was appropriate to the challenges they currently faced. PS(P) said that he wished to be kept informed as the operating model developed.

Item 4 – TDA Sponsorship

TDA sponsorship team had continued to enjoy a productive relationship with the TDA.

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Item 5 – Relationships

PS(P) asked PC if there was anything he wished to mention about TDA's relationships with other bodies, particularly with reference to planning. PC commented that TDA continued to work closely with various bodies. He remarked in particular that as an organisation the TDA were looking forward to working with Monitor to develop NHS Improvement.

Item 6 – AOB

There was no other business.