

Monitor Accountability Meeting

Date: 17 February 2015

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Attendees:

Department of Health
The Rt. Hon. The Earl Howe, Parliamentary-under-Secretary of State for Health
Richard Douglas, Director General, Finance and NHS
Tim Jones, Deputy Director, Head of NHS Personalisation and Regulation
Rhia Roy, Private Secretary
Cariad Hazard, Senior Policy Advisor, NHS Personalisation and Regulation
Monitor
Dr David Bennett, Chief Executive
Baroness Hanham CBE, Chair

Accountability Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with the Minister welcoming David Bennett and Baroness Hanham to the third accountability meeting between the Department and Monitor for the 2014/15 financial year.

Agenda item 1 - STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Minister invited Monitor representatives to provide reflections on relationships between Monitor and key system partners.

Monitor representatives confirmed that they were continuing to engage with key system partners and spoke about the importance of ALB involvement in key system initiatives such as the Dalton and Carter reviews.

David Bennett confirmed that Monitor continues to work closely with system partners on the Five Year Forward View and that there had recently been a board to board with NHS England to discuss work programmes.

Agenda item 2 - PROVIDER POLICY

a) Foundation Trust (FT) financial position and performance 14/15

David Bennett provided the Minister with an update on the overall financial position of the FT sector and the systems Monitor have in place to support FTs in financial difficulty.

David Bennett also spoke about the importance of developing a resource to better support FTs. It was agreed that this was an important issue and David would provide more detail on Monitor's developing Provider Sustainability Directorate and how this would support FTs in terms of financial position and performance in the future.

b) Performance 14/15

The Minister asked Monitor representatives for an update on FT performance against waiting standards.

David Bennett spoke about the efforts undertaken to reduce the number of people waiting over 18 weeks for treatment. David Bennett also set out that Monitor had recently written to all FT Chief Executives highlighting the need to focus on treating patients waiting the longest, subject to the clinical priority of other patients.

David Bennett also spoke about the importance of ensuring that Monitor had its Provider Sustainability Directorate in place in order to provide additional support.

c) Special Measures

The Minister thanked Monitor representatives for their work and involvement in the production of revised guidance on the special measures process, published on 11 February 2015.

The Minister noted that Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust would soon be placed into special measures, bringing the number of FTs in special measures to nine.

The Minister then invited Monitor representatives to give their reflections on how they had found the process of sourcing improvement directors to support organisations in special measures.

David Bennett stated that improvement directors had given a level of insight that had been important to support the special measures process.

David Bennett also said that Monitor were keen to support the way forward in growing capacity within the NHS to support initiatives like special measures. He stated that he hoped Monitor's new provider sustainability directorate would give them more in-house resources to call on.

The Minister then asked Monitor representatives for an update on work at Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

David Bennett gave an update on the situation at Medway and discussed the development of arrangements with Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT) which will shortly be in place. It was agreed that Medway would be a standing agenda item for this meeting going forward as the Minister was keen to receive updates on progress made by GSTT.

Agenda item 3 - NATIONAL TARIFF UPDATE

The Minister asked Monitor for the latest position the outcome of the National Tariff consultation, next steps and the reaction of stakeholders to the delay in publishing a final tariff.

David Bennett said that there was a high level of uncertainty across the system. He then updated the Minister on proposals for an interim tariff offer whilst Monitor and NHS England continue to work together to find a long-term solution for 15/16.

Agenda item 4 - MONITOR 2015/16 INDICATIVE BUDGET & BUSINESS PLANNING

There was a discussion around the progression of business planning for 15/16. David Bennett said they would continue to work with the Department as they finalise planning and would share another iteration in due course.

Agenda item 5 - FORTHCOMING MONITOR PUBLICATIONS

David Bennett spoke briefly about a project Monitor are undertaking on choice in primary care. Publication will be in the near future.

A.O.B

None