Monitor
Making the health sector
work for patients

To: The Board

For meeting on: 17 December 2015

Agenda item: 9

Report by: Sigurd Reinton, Technology Assurance Committee Chair

Report on: Report of the Technology Assurance Committee meeting
                on 10 December 2015

Background:

1. The Chair of Technology Assurance Committee (TAC) is required to report on its
   work to the Board after every meeting of the Committee. This report highlights the
   key issues considered by the Committee.

Issues:

TAC update

2. TAC members noted the report, which provided an update on developments in
   Information Services since the last TAC meeting. There had been significant
   progress in working through the 'hump' in new projects and a shift from 'enablers'
   to data analytics. The implications of the flexible working policy were also
   discussed. The importance of resolving issues around type 2 objections to the use
   of patient level data was emphasised.

Integration update

3. The Chief Information Officer introduced the report, which provided an overview of
   the ongoing work to facilitate the integration of Monitor, the NHS Trust
   Development Authority and some NHS England functions into NHS Improvement.
   TAC members underlined the importance of obtaining the funding required to
   proceed with key capital projects to ensure a successful integration and to enable
   NHS Improvement to meet the expectations placed on it – in particular in regard to
   improved financial performance in the provider sector. The need to develop a
   critical path programme plan, and to be clear about the implications of missing
   milestones, was highlighted.

<u>The role of NHS Improvement in delivering benefits to the sector through technology enabled change</u>

4. The expectation that NHS Improvement will deliver benefits to the sector through technology-enabled change (with the Health and Social Care Information Centre and NHS England) was underlined. TAC members noted the report, which outlined plans to use technology to improve the performance of the NHS. The Chief Information Officer provided an overview of the negotiations that had taken place and that are still ongoing. The importance of securing the funding required to underpin the high expectations now being placed on NHS Improvement to drive performance improvement across the provider universe was underlined.

<u>Cyber security</u>

5. TAC members noted the report, and NHS Improvement's central role in ensuring NHS provider organisations play their part in improving cyber security. The importance of improved cyber security and good information governance in creating the climate in which patients will allow the sharing of their information so as to permit better care – and better management of the care system – was underlined.

Sigurd Reinton
TAC Chair

Public Sector Equality Duty

Monitor has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. In relation to the issues set out in this paper, consideration has been given to the impact that the recommendations might have on these requirements and on the nine protected groups identified by the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, gender and sexual orientation).

As it is for information, it is anticipated that none of the recommendations of this paper will have an impact upon the requirements of or the protected groups identified by the Equality Act.

Exempt information:

None of this report is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Annexes –
    A. Minutes of the Technology Assurance Committee meeting on 10 December (to follow)