

Tim Powell
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20 February 2017

Via Email

Dear Chair

Update letter from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

I write to provide the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an update from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

This last year has continued to be very challenging for NHS colleagues across the country. The trials and tribulations of the NHS are well rehearsed and yet despite the growing pressure on our services our staff continued to be outstanding, making a difference to people at a time when they have needed it most. Our urgent care pressures remain, but with the commitment and resilience of our staff we are as confident and determined as ever that we can continue to improve the services we provide to our patients.

You will be aware that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out an unannounced inspection in September. This was a review to ensure improvements had been embedded and sustained following a previous inspection by the CQC in February and March 2016. They published their report in January, receiving some local media coverage. I'm pleased to say that following this inspection the overall rating of urgent and emergency services and medical services has moved from 'Inadequate' to 'Requires Improvement.'

We and our partners across the local healthcare system have worked extremely hard to make the necessary improvements outlined by the CQC following their previous inspection, and are pleased that these have been acknowledged in the report. This recognises the huge contribution from staff across the hospital and in particular those who work across our emergency and medical services. I am proud of these efforts improving the services we provide.

We all recognise that there is still much to do in order to deliver further improvements for our patients, staff and partners at South Central Ambulance Service. I remain confident that the combined leadership efforts of everyone across our local health care system will support those improvements.

We are disappointed that our financial performance has fallen significantly below the levels anticipated in the Trust's financial plan. Our continuing trend in high demand for unscheduled care has meant pay and non-pay expenditure is up on expected. We have also failed to reach our anticipated income due the effects of unscheduled care pressures and lower than anticipated activity in some areas. We are now forecasting a year end deficit of -£16.1million.

Looking ahead we continue to explore opportunities to ensure the local NHS and social care services work together as a team, becoming stronger in our common purpose to deliver better care and outcomes for a much wider population than just Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and South East Hampshire. Working in collaboration with our partners on the Isle of Wight, and Southampton, and potentially further afield, we aspire to deliver better care and sustainable services for our patients going

forward. This is not a merger or a takeover, simply a way by which we can work as a larger team, share resource at a time when it is at a premium, and deliver better services for the benefit of all of our patients.

Importantly this work will be led by clinical leaders from all organisations to ensure that changes really do deliver better outcomes for patients as we move forward. This is an exciting opportunity without which would see us struggle to keep up with demand over the years ahead.

Despite the relentless pressures throughout the year we have continued to win many awards for our work. We were recognised at the Sport and Physical Activity Awards, along with a select number of other public sector organisations for our work on staff health and well-being. Despite the title this was not about producing a workforce capable of running marathons or swimming the Channel, we were recognised for a workforce capable of delivering better outcomes for our patients, a workforce who values the need to look after themselves in order to look after their patients, and a workforce who recognises that looking after each other is really important. This means supporting one another and working collaboratively across teams.

Of course this is not the only award we have won. There are almost too many to mention whether it be The News Best of Health awards, the Shine Awards, and of course our own Best People Awards. We can be proud of so many of our colleagues who have been recognised, and of course everyone who has supported them.

My colleague Peter Mellor will be happy to further expand on this information and answer any other questions that you might have. We will continue to provide you with the financial and performance monitoring data that you have asked for.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Powell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Powell
Interim Chief Executive