
Report from West of England Health Science Network Board, 10 December 2013

1. Purpose

This is the second quarterly report for the Boards of the member organisations of the West of England Academic Health Science network which includes the three health research active Universities, NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts, Community Interest Companies who provide community health and social care and the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups.

A similar briefing will be circulated to a wider range of partners and stakeholders following each quarterly meeting of the Academic Health Science Network Board.

Board papers will be posted on our website - <http://www.weahsn.net>

2. Report from the Senior Leaders Meeting

The AHSN is holding a seminar prior to each Board meeting for Chairs and Chief Executives, University representatives and Accountable Officers/Chairs of our seven CCGs. The first one of these was in Chippenham on 9 December and attracted good representation from both Chairs and Chief Executives. The meeting heard a progress report on the AHSN plus three short presentations on:

- Patient Safety – where support for the existing programme, for strengthening community health services participation and developing a primary care branch, was expressed
- Informatics – where the AHSN was encouraged to add value by supporting interoperability – or join up – of data systems at individual patient level
- Evidence into Practice – where people felt there was real benefit in learning together how to improve adoption and spread across the West of England.

Chairs and Chief Executives welcomed the opportunity to meet as a group.

3. Key Items for Decision and Discussion

The Board approved the following items:

3.1 Governance

The final steps in becoming a “Company Limited by Guarantee” were made which strengthens financial flexibility and is a better basis for working with industry. The Board also approved the Contract with NHS England.

3.2 Evidence into Practice

The Board approved six local proposals for research evidence into practice for immediate implementation or further work up. These included cemented hip replacements, two around intra partum maternity care and telehealth for chronic kidney disease.

A national priority recommended by NICE and adopted as a priority for the South West Cardio-vascular Strategic Clinical Network which is about anti-coagulants for stroke prevention in people with atrial fibrillation was also supported and will be an early focus. The Board was keen to receive future proposals from mental health and community services.

The Board sponsor for Evidence into Practice is Frank Harsent, Chief Executive of Gloucestershire Hospitals Foundation Trust. Anna Burhouse, currently Director of Strategic Modernisation at 2Gether Mental Health Foundation Trust is joining the AHSN in January as Director of Change, Innovation and Service Improvement and will lead this work.

3.3 Commissioning Evidence Based Care

Dr Peter Brindle has been appointed as Clinical Leader to lead on this work.

We have secured a skills development programme for Commissioners on “Seeking, Understanding and Presenting Evidence” which has been tailored to local needs and is running on 29 January 2014. It will be open to Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England and Public Health colleagues.

The Board sponsor is Ian Orpen, Chair of Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group.

3.4 AHSN Informatics Strategy

The Board approved a high level informatics strategy the aim of which is to add value to local health communities’ efforts. The approach is to Connect, Use, Aggregate and Share data at patient, pathway and population level.

The initial focus will be on interoperability of data – which is about joining together all the data systems from different health providers at individual patient level. Some compelling examples of better patient safety, improved risk management and greater efficiency are arising from early work in the West of England. Gloucestershire and B&NES will now undertake option appraisals with AHSN support on what is best for their areas.

Richard Tarring, Finance Director of Sirona, is the Sponsor for this programme.

3.5 Enterprise and Translation

The Board approved the Operational Plan for this which includes mapping the health related companies in all three Local Area Partnerships with a focus on Small and Medium sized Enterprises.

4. Items to Report

The Board received a number of items for information and report including:

- **Small Business Research Initiative** following our brief to Small and Medium Sized enterprises around the deteriorating patient, we received sixty proposals and these have now been shortlisted by clinical faculty members of the Patient Safety Programme down to ten. Interviews will result in three or four chosen proposals whose proposals will be funded for development to proof of concept stage and ultimately for use in the service.
- **Patient Safety** - we expect national guidance shortly about establishing Patient Safety Collaboratives which seem to be based on a very similar model to the Safer Care South West programme. We are working with the AHSN member organisations and our colleagues in South West AHSN, Wessex and Kent Surrey and Sussex to develop proposals to NHS England by the end of this financial year.
- **CLAHRCwest Chair** - Dr Mark Pietroni, the Director of Public Health for South Gloucestershire, has become the Chair of the CLAHRC Board and will represent the CLAHRC on the AHSN Board
- The **NHS Leadership Academy** is holding a TEDMED conference on leadership at the Watershed, Bristol on 11 April 2014 with AHSN support. Watch out for advance publicity through your organisations.
- **NICE** – the AHSN has signed a collaboration agreement with NICE which includes specific partnership work on anticoagulants for atrial fibrillation.
- **Evaluation** - the AHSN Board has approved an evaluation framework for the AHSN and the CLAHRC which involves a team from the Universities of Bristol, Bath and the West of England. It is led by Professor Christine Harland, now of Cardiff University.
- We held a **Patient and Public Involvement** Event on 4 November 2013 as the next stage in developing our Patient and Public Involvement work. This is to be a joint development with CLAHRCwest and the new Comprehensive Research Network.

Deborah Evans
December 2013