

CMAST Leadership Board Update to Boards April

CMAST Leadership Board met on Friday 4th April and discussed several system wide issues.

The Leadership Board received an update on the work being progressed by the ICB and providers in respect of the planning ask and in particular the financial modelling and actions required to get to an acceptable plan. CEOs were joined by senior representation from the ICB and heard how NW neighbours had undertaken steps to provide a more acceptable plan within recent days, something which increased pressure on C&M to deliver in response to the ask.

C&M was expected to meet with the region in the next week to agree a plan and position. The Board was briefed that it was expected the C&M plan would both demonstrate improvements but also identify specific interventions which could be agreed with NHSE and which were likely to identify actions to address the underlying deficit position of the system. Interventions being discussed included specific geographical focus on programmes and delivery through integration where these may not already be in place within a cluster, additional mechanisms to both demonstrate and deliver grip and control and additional ICB finance recovery oversight. The need for capacity to develop a medium term financial plan was also discussed.

Further discussion took place with relation to actions arising from national discussions which included the lifting of the proposed elective cap but with no additional associated funding meaning it provided scope for choices within the system but not additional headroom and ongoing national discussions about how and if to fund head count reduction programmes.

The Leadership Board also received an update on Commercial Opportunities and Parameters in line with current national key lines of enquiry. The Board hear how a number of NHS Trusts across England have formed subsidiaries to support financial efficiencies and improved operational delivery. Services provided by subsidiaries tend to include: Pharmacy Services; Estates & Facilities Management; Procurement Services; Technical Services; Digital Automation. Examples and potentially scalable opportunities already exist within C&M.

In discussion the Board explored the regulations, views of HMRC and tax implications of such arrangements. The Board requested capacity be given to the active review of current commercial assets within C&M and the possible opportunities associated with them. An amount of dialogue focused on the opportunities for greater resilience within aseptic services.

Update papers were also provided on the following areas:

- System financial report
- System performance update