

Update to the Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Independent reviews at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB)

Introduction and background

Further to the Newsnight and other media coverage in December 2022, relating to alleged concerns regarding patient safety, leadership, culture and governance, in partnership with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB), NHS Birmingham and Solihull (ICB) has agreed three independent reviews that will focus on:

- Patient safety (Bewick Review) - commissioned by the ICB, overseen by experienced senior independent clinician, Professor Mike Bewick, former NHS England Deputy Medical Director. The report is expected by the end of January. Any outputs pertaining to culture, leadership or governance, will address as part of the following two reviews
- Well-Led review of leadership and governance – in conjunction with NHS England, using established methodology. This will happen between January and March 2023. Publication arrangements will be agreed.
- Culture - commissioned externally by UHB's Interim Chair, incorporating findings from above. Will report in first half of 2023. Publication arrangements will be agreed.

Oversight

All three of the reviews will be overseen by a joint NHS Birmingham and Solihull and NHS England Oversight group.

As well as oversight arrangements through the BSol and NHS England oversight group, it is essential that the Bewick Review remains accountable to those who have raised concerns and provides assurance to the public and local partners. As such, Preet Kaur Gill, MP for Edgbaston, has chaired a cross party reference group, bringing together local voices and organisations.

Councillors will be able to feed any views into the first review via the cross party reference group, including any that they may have received directly from constituents. We want to continue to listen to and engage with councillors and believe we should continue to do that through the tried and tested Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) channels.

Progress

Experienced, senior independent clinician, Professor Mike Bewick, former NHS England Deputy Medical Director, has completed the first review, alongside a team of his own experts.

The draft report will be received on the 7th February and will undergo a factual accuracy check. Prof Mike Bewick will be attending the UHB Cross Party Reference Group on the 7th February to present the key headline findings from the review. A communication and publication plan is currently in development.

Preet Kaur Gill, MP for Edgbaston chaired the first cross party reference group on the 26th January, membership of the group can be found in **appendix 1**. Prof Mike Bewick was in attendance giving group members an opportunity to input directly into the review.

As part of the reference group activity, Preet Kaur Gill organised and held an open and confidential virtual town hall session on the 23rd January to create a safe space for those who have voiced concerns with MPs to share them with Professor Bewick and his team.

Two other reviews are being undertaken a culture review commissioned by Dame Yve Buckland the interim chair of UHB and a well led review undertaken by NSH England. In order to bring the conclusions and recommendations of these two pieces of work Professor Mike Bewick has been commissioned to oversee both reviews and also return in June to report on progress on his first quality report following the initial Newsnight allegations.

The Rt Hon Preet Gill MP has been requested to continue chairing the reference group until the conclusion of these reviews in the summer (target date June 2023).

Conclusion and next steps

All the reviews being undertaken are independent of UHB (i.e. not undertaken by staff at UHB) and all when appropriate due process has been completed will be published.

Appendix 1

UHB Review Cross Party Reference Group Membership:

Core Group

Labour MP, Chair

Conservative MP

Birmingham Healthwatch Chair

Birmingham Healthwatch CEO

Professional rep BMA

Professional rep RCN

Professional rep Unison

2 X Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs

- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Conservative
- Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board, Labour

2 x Citizen reps from the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Partnership

In attendance

Communications and engagement support from the Director of Communications, NHS Birmingham and Solihull

Meeting organiser and note taker

Attendees invited by the Chair to report to/update the Group as required