

NATIONAL DELIVERY GROUP

4 June 2009

11:00am

Committee Room 39, Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff

Present:

Paul Williams – Chair
Rosemary Kennedy
Eifion Williams
Sheelagh Lloyd Jones
Gwyn Thomas
Simon Dean
Graham Williams

John Palmer
Zoe Harcombe
Peter Max
John Collins
Sian-Marie James
Christopher Cule

PW welcomed everyone to the management meeting of this group, particularly the three Independent Members.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Bob Hudson, Stephen Hunter and Dr Tony Jewell.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

- 2.1 PW invited everyone around the table to provide a brief introduction for the purpose of the three newly appointed Independent Members.

3. INTRODUCTION INTO NHS WALES KEY ISSUES

The following areas were discussed:

(i) NHS Reform

PW provided an update on the NHS Reform Programme.

(ii) Service Issues

SD provided an overview on the current performance management process for NHS organisations, together with background on the Annual Operating Framework (AOF). PW confirmed that in relation to performance management he considered the Independent Members would bring an external perspective to the current monitoring and evaluation process.

(iii) Finance

EW tabled a paper for discussion, which set out the current and projected financial position. In light of the current financial climate and its impact on public services, PW emphasised the financial risks, which will require stringent monitoring and strategic leadership. It was agreed that the financial position of NHS Wales would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Action:

- ***Finance to be a standard agenda item for NDG meetings - CC***

(iv) Workforce

SLJ provided an overview on HR issues within the NHS:

- Over 70,000 people were employed by NHS Wales;
- NHS Wales has a traditional staffing model that has not changed significantly since the establishment of the NHS in 1948;
- The challenge will be to deliver flexible workforce. Initial discussions have already taken place with Trade Unions on new ways of working.

(v) Legal

SMJ tabled a briefing paper that Legal Services had prepared specifically for JC as the legal specialist on the NDG, but would be of general interest.

SMJ advised the Independent Members (IMs) that the Minister's powers are provided in the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, and she would send a link to this Act to IMs. In addition, IMs would be sent an updated version of a diagram that sets out the new NHS Wales structure, and accountabilities, together with a briefing paper (attached to the first consultation paper) that provides a retrospective view on the NHS prior to the NHS Reform Programme.

Action:

- ***Send IMs copy NHS diagram and briefing paper – SMJ***
- ***Send IMs link to the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 - SMJ***

(vi) One Wales Action Plan

JP provided an update on the current One Wales commitments relating to the health and social services portfolio, as follows:

3.2 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

PW spoke to the draft ToR that had been circulated with the agenda papers, and invited comments from all NDG Members. An updated version of the ToRs would be discussed at the next meeting.

PM raised the accountability issues of Independent Members, as there was a reference in the ToRs to the IMs reporting to the Minister. PW advised that all IMs were accountable to PW as the Chief Executive, NHS Wales, but ultimately accountable to the Minister as they were appointed by her.

Action:

- ***Comments on the ToR to be sent to CC - All***

3.3 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS & NEXT MEETING

PW opened up a discussion on the frequency of future meetings and advised.

It was agreed that the Group should meet monthly (except August) in the first instance. all members agreed that Thursday would be a suitable day, with meetings starting from 10.30am.

The format of the agenda would evolve at the next few meetings to ensure an adequate balance between regular performance manager reports for monitoring and governance, strategic issues and specific issues.

Action:

- ***Send all members a list of NDG meeting dates for the next 12 months - CC***

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JC suggested additional Induction Training for the IMs, as they were all at different levels of NHS experience. SLJ suggested that the IMs attend the Chairs/Vice Chairs Induction sessions that are being organised.

Action:

- ***IMs to be invited to Chairs/Vice Chairs Induction Days - CC***