

TO: West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust Board

FROM: Stephen Golledge, Chief Executive

DATE: 16th March 2006

SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Board on relevant meetings and issues since the last Public Board Meeting held on 16th February 2006.

2.0 RENAL SERVICES UPDATE

- 2.1 One of the key standards of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Renal Services has been delivered with the opening of a new (second) renal dialysis unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. The Severn Dialysis Unit which opened in January 2006 is a low-dependency unit which will improve the access and delivery of high quality dialysis for the increasing number of patients across the county requiring regular dialysis. The new centre can treat up to an additional 15 patients at any one time and will act as an extension to the service already provided at the well-established Cotswold Dialysis Centre. The Gloucestershire Renal Services Group (chaired by West Gloucestershire PCT who lead on the commissioning of renal services for the county) was instrumental in the successful bid to secure the capital funding of the development from the Department of Health. Plans for the new unit have been developed and informed through the close involvement of users and carers which included feedback from a user survey.

3.0 NORTH FOREST PATCH UPDATE

- 3.1 This month's patch report has been provided by Liam Williams, Primary Care Development Manager for the North Gloucester patch.
- 3.2 The Patch Team have continued to meet and provide a positive opportunity to share NHS developments as well as receive feedback on local service provision. The Team is actively considering how it will work with the Forest of Dean Youth Forum and the Forest of Dean Health Forum to ensure the best use of PCT resources and public members time. They are also considering hosting a stall at the two Market Town fairs in the Patch to provide people with an opportunity to meet them and provide feedback on their views / experiences.
- 3.3 Community Nursing - Case Management implementation has been actively implemented against a challenging staff absence background with strong clinical leadership being provided by the Lead District Nurse in the Patch. Work is also in progress to support reducing emergency admissions and length of stay through the delivery of short term IV antibiotics in patients own

homes – it is anticipated that this work will be at implementation stage from early Spring.

- 3.4 Dilke Memorial Hospital - Charitable funds have been utilised along with some PCT revenue to support the Day Unit increasing the services it offers. This will see the unit divided into two areas; rehabilitation and day case attendance. The new services being planned to run include a Forest *Look After Your Legs* service and extending local blood transfusion availability. They have also recently linked with the Multiple Sclerosis Consultant to trial a care pathway that enables delivery of an IV drug locally that will reduce the need for patients with Multiple Sclerosis to travel to Gloucester.
- 3.5 Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) Cluster - The Cluster have been engaging in the National Primary Care Development Team PBC Programme and have identified several new schemes of work they wish to engage in. These include accelerating their work on a primary care gastroenterology pathway and direct ultra sound access, identifying effective ways of liaising with secondary care doctors to reduce length of stay for emergency admissions and developing working relationships with local care homes to reduce out of hours contacts and subsequent potential admissions.

4.0 INFORMATION GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT

- 4.1 As part of the national Information Governance agenda, the Department of Health and the NHS Information Authority jointly produced the Information Governance toolkit. The toolkit was originally launched in late 2003 and the PCT was required to submit an initial baseline assessment against the requirements in March 2005.
- 4.2 The toolkit covers the following areas:-

Information Governance Management
Code of Confidentiality
Freedom of Information
Data Protection
Information Security
Health Records
National Programme
Information Quality Assurance

- 4.3 The PCT is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the original assessment and documenting progress which has been made during 2005/6. This assessment is due for completion on 31st March 2006 and the outcome from this will then be presented to the Board.

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NHS, SIR NIGEL CRISP STEPS DOWN FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- 5.1 Sir Nigel Crisp announced on 7th March that he is to step down from his post as Chief Executive of the NHS and Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health at the end of the month.
- 5.2 He is to take early retirement after more than five years in one of the most challenging jobs in Whitehall, during which he oversaw the implementation of the first half of the ten-year NHS Plan.

5.3 Following Sir Nigel's retirement, Sir Ian Carruthers will become Acting Chief Executive of the NHS, and Hugh Taylor will become Acting Permanent Secretary of the Department.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Board is asked to note and approve the contents of the report.