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## IT Workstream agrees priorities that will support better patient experience and easier cross-trust working

Plans for further partnership-wide improvements to IT systems have this month been agreed by the IT leads from all of the Working Together Trusts. The agreement is that the Working Together Informatics Workstream will focus on five key priorities for the next 5 years.

The five key priorities include:

- increasing the ability for electronic discharge to take place across the Working Together footprint; and enabling all the NHS organisations in the area to be able to view shared patient records
- increasing efficiency in Clinical Coding – the process by which hospital activity data is recorded; and creating more efficiency in the business intelligence functions that help hospitals convert data into actionable information for decision making
- enabling remote working to be easier and available to more staff across the patch
- enabling significantly increased joint working across IT teams and the development of joint systems and



Lord Carter

## Working Together Trusts achieve Lord Carter target 8 months early

Procurement teams from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust are celebrating having achieved Level 1 in the NHS Procurement and Commercial Standards, a full 8 months before the review by Lord Carter recommends that all Trusts should have achieved the level.

The NHS Procurement and Commercial Standards are non-mandatory standards that are used as a tool to help organisations to identify their areas of strength and areas for improvement in procurement. There are three levels, which are cumulative so to achieve level 3 'excelling' an organisation must first meet levels 1 and then 2. Level 1 recognises the performance of the procurement and supply teams from an organisation; Level 2 recognises a strong procurement performance from the whole

processes

- developing an informatics workforce model that supports the future of NHS informatics

Janette Watkins, Working Together Programme Director said: “The Informatics workstream have already put in place some great solutions that allow staff, who already work across the area, to be able to do so more easily. They’ve also enabled new technologies that allow patient data to flow from place to place more easily – which is essential when there are patients travelling from one part of the area to another for specialist treatment. The five priorities that have been identified going forwards will further build upon and strengthen the great work that has gone before.”

Informatics Workstream Lead Michael Rodgers said: “It is great that we have reached agreement on these 5 priorities. The planning for e-discharge is already underway and it is a really important project. Currently Sheffield Teaching Hospitals send electronic discharge messages to Sheffield GPs, all other discharges are paper based and are mailed. Having the ability to send complete, legible and secure information is more efficient and better for our patients; with more information on the treatment the patient has received, GP’s can make more informed decisions for their patients. The aim of this project eventually will be to allow all discharges from all the Working Together hospitals to any GP in the area to take place electronically. The initial pilot that is currently being explored will see the specialist Sheffield hospitals being able to do electronic discharge for patients with GPs in Barnsley and Rotherham. Our first task is to make sure the different IT systems will allow this to take place. Then we can work together to explore the potential the system can offer”

organisation, not just the procurement team; and Level 3 organisations are demonstrating world-class procurement performance.

In his report, published in February 2016, Lord Carter makes 15 detailed recommendations for improving the productivity and performance of NHS Trusts with the aim of releasing £5bn in efficiency savings. One of the recommendations is that Trusts embrace the adoption and promotion of the NHS Standards of Procurement, with the aim of achieving Level 1 by October 2017 and Level 2 by October 2018.

The four remaining Working Together Trusts from the procurement workstream – Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust, Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust remain on track to also achieve Level 1 well in advance of the Lord Carter target.

Lord Carter was asked to carry out a review by Jeremy Hunt as part of his aim to make the NHS the safest and most efficient healthcare system in the world. The efficiency expert spent 18 months visiting hospitals across the country and reviewing productivity to ensure the NHS gets the best value from its £102 billion annual budget



### New Provider Efficiency Group explores financial systems

A new Working Together Group, formed to act on behalf of the Working Together Chief Executives and advise on options for improving efficiencies in corporate services, has been looking at whether more collaboration and best practice sharing between Trusts could lead to

### Hull joins forces with Working Together to further strengthen procurement success

With a raft of successful procurements

### Children’s Surgery and Anaesthesia Public Consultation comes to a close

The joint Working Together Vanguard and Commissioners Working Together project into Children’s surgery and anaesthesia formal consultation has now closed.

All feedback is currently being collated for review by the Joint Committee of Clinical Commissioning Groups, who will make a

efficiencies in the use of financial accounting systems.

The Board has formed two working groups based around the two different financial accounting systems that are currently in use in the Trusts. The groups are looking at how to maximise integration and best practice to ensure more efficient usage of the systems, whilst working with system suppliers to enable this and also drive down overall system costs.

The approach being taken to this piece of work is set to act as a blueprint for how the Board aims to ensure efficiencies across corporate services, looking as a priority at where efficiencies can be achieved through better collaboration and sharing of best practice.

already completed, it's no surprise that the Working Together Partnership Vanguard has welcomed another Trust around the procurement table.

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust will join the Working Together partnership to bring their product volumes into three procurements which will potentially help reduce prices of goods and supplies even further.

final commissioning decision in public on April 18.

In the meantime Trusts are working with the Working Together programme to develop business cases ready to respond to any commissioning decision. These will be backed up by condition-specific clinical pathways, and by standards and protocols which will ensure that patients receive an equitable high quality service in all of our hospitals.

All findings from the consultation – which are being analysed independently – will be shared with the public and staff.

Timescales for the Commissioners Working Together stroke project, the consultation for which ran concurrently to the children's surgery consultation, are in line with those for children's surgery.

For more information about the Working Together Partnership contact

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