

Health and Wellbeing Board	HWB/27/03/13
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THE FRANCIS REPORT

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Purpose of Report and Decision Areas and Recommendations	<p>The second Francis Report on the Mid Staffordshire Hospital was published on 5 February 2013. It examined the failings of the health system as a whole, in not acknowledging or responding to the problems at the hospital. The report makes 290 recommendations in total, many of which are directed at providers, commissioning organisations and regulators in general and are not confined to the bodies directly implicated in circumstances in Mid Staffordshire.</p> <p>Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of the NHS Commissioning Board, has been asked to lead an investigation into the death rates at an additional 14 hospitals. This list includes Basildon & Thurrock University Hospital and Colchester Hospital.</p> <p>The Francis Report and the follow up investigations aim to have a significant impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the standard of care provided by health and social care services; • the effectiveness of the systems for regulating and assuring that these are delivered to the highest possible level; • the confidence that everyone has, that complaints are taken seriously and acted upon. <p>Fundamentally, the Report is explicitly aimed at changing the underlying culture of the health and social care system, to ensure that it positively supports and does not act against these issues.</p> <p>Members will have an interest in discussing the report in order to agree what role that the Board should be playing, to deliver specific recommendations and in supporting members in their actions.</p> <p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Board acknowledges the importance of this topic and directs the Business Management Group to prepare a report for the next meeting, so that a full and informed discussion can take place. ii. Dr Sally Irvine (Chairman) and Dr Gordon Coutts (Chief Executive) from Colchester Hospital be invited to attend the next meeting.
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Background and context	<p>The Francis Report</p> <p>The Francis Report makes 290 recommendations on topics that include (but are not confined to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that the quality of care of patients is put as the first priority; • setting minimum standards for the quality of care of patients; • ensuring openness, transparency and candour throughout the system about matters of concern; • clarifying the role of the healthcare regulatory bodies; • holding people who care for patients properly accountable for what they do; • ensuring that the systems to identify underperformance and inadequate care do actually do that; • enhancing the recruitment, education and training of staff (especially those in nursing and leadership positions); • the role of Healthwatch and scrutiny in providing an oversight; • the organisational culture of health and social care organisations. <p>All commissioning, service provision regulatory and ancillary organisations are expected to consider the findings and recommendations of the Report and to report annually on their actions in response.</p> <p>The government is expected to make its formal response to the Francis Report in March and Professor Don Berwick who has been appointed by the Prime Minister to “make zero harm a reality in our NHS” will report to the NHS Commissioning Board at the end of July.</p> <p>The Keogh Investigations</p> <p>The investigations at Basildon & Thurrock Hospital and Colchester Hospital have been triggered by these hospitals holding death rates (specifically the Standardised Hospital Mortality Indicator - SHMI) that are consistently outside the expected range, given the local population profile. The approach being taken in the investigations is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> carry out data analysis in order to generate key lines of enquiry; make visits to the hospitals and talk with patients and all levels of staff; hold a Risk Summit for each hospital to agree any necessary actions. <p>Clare Panniker, Chief Executive of Basildon & Thurrock Hospital attended a workshop session of the January meeting of the Board when members were updated on the range of issues facing that hospital. Representatives from Colchester Hospital were invited to attend this meeting of the Board, unfortunately they were unable to make the date but have expressed their willingness to attend a future meeting.</p>
Options/ Proposals	<p>The Essex CCGs, Healthwatch Essex, NHS CB and ECC will all be considering the Report and agreeing their own action plans in response to the recommendations. It is therefore proposed that the Business Management Group, in the light of each organisation’s responses, should be asked to consider this topic and to bring a full report to the next meeting of the Board in May.</p> <p>It is also proposed that Dr Sally Irvine (Chairman) and Dr Gordon Coutts (Chief Executive) from Colchester Hospital be invited to attend the next meeting.</p>
Conclusions	<p>If the lessons from the experiences of Mid Staffordshire Hospital are to be learned, then the Francis Report will have a massive impact on the culture and day to day operations of the health service and its partners.</p> <p>In taking a leadership role across the health and wellbeing system in Essex, it is</p>

	imperative that the Health and Wellbeing Board considers in full the Francis Report and Keogh Investigations and agrees appropriate action to support members and to do all within its power to ensure that a tragedy similar to Mid Staffordshire does not happen in Essex.
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