

Trust Board Report

Meeting Date:	29 October 2012
Title:	7 Day Working- Update
Executive Summary:	Further to the report on 7 Day Working presented to the Trust Board in June 2012, this report provides a further summary of progress to date with respect to implementation.
Action Requested:	To note
Report of:	Medical Director
Author: Contact Details:	Dr Jonathan Odum Tel 01902 695958 Email:Jonathan.Odum@nhs.net
Resource Implications:	
Public or Private: (with reasons if private)	Public Session
References: (eg from/to other committees)	
Appendices/ References/ Background Reading	Trust Board Report – 25 June 2012
NHS Constitution: (How it impacts on any decision-making)	<p>In determining this matter, the Board should have regard to the Core principles contained in the Constitution of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Equality of treatment and access to services ✚ High standards of excellence and professionalism ✚ Service user preferences ✚ Cross community working ✚ Best Value ✚ Accountability through local influence and scrutiny

Background Details

The proposal to develop and implement 7 day working across the clinical areas within the medical specialties at New Cross Hospital, to optimise quality and safety of service provision to Medical Inpatients over the weekend, was approved by the Trust Board in April 2012.

There has been considerable media interest in the "Wolverhampton" development, not least of which is related to the commitment by the Trust Board to approve a Business Case supporting the appointment of 8.2 WTE Consultant Physicians (in various specialties – see below), in order to allow the implementation to proceed. Further to the Trust Board approval being gained, the Business Case supporting the funding for the 8.2 WTE Consultants was approved by the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group in August 2012. Specifically, funding was agreed to appoint into the various medical specialties as follows:

1. Diabetes Consultant – 1 WTE
2. Renal Consultant – 1 WTE
3. Respiratory Consultants – 2 WTE
4. Care of the Elderly Consultants – 3 WTE
5. Acute Physician Consultant – 1 WTE
6. Oncology Consultant – 0.2 WTE

Because of the logistic difficulties in advertising and appointing into the individual Consultant posts, coupled with the availability and suitability of appointees into these posts, progress with appointing and, therefore, commencing 7 day working in the different specialties has progressed at different rates. Nevertheless, significant progress has been made and is summarised as follows (below).

Acute Medicine

Acute Physicians cover Emergency Assessment Unit (EAU)/Emergency Assessment Ward (EAW). They will commence 7 day working when 5 WTE Consultants are in post (currently there are 4 WTE in post). At the time of writing (18th October 2012) 1 WTE post is out to advert, although the closing date has not yet occurred. It is uncertain at this time whether applicants suitable for appointment have applied. A further update will be provided verbally at the Trust Board on 29th October 2012.

Care of the Elderly

Care of the Elderly Physicians cover D7, D8 and D22. There are currently 2 substantive WTE and 1 Locum Consultant in place. An additional 3 WTE Consultants are required to implement 7 day working. One WTE Consultant appointment has been made with the applicant taking up post on 12th December 2012. Job Descriptions for a further 2 WTE Consultants are currently with The Royal College of Physicians, awaiting approval and as soon as this is received, advertisements will be placed with a view to appointments being made. As soon as substantive appointments are in post, then weekend working will commence.

In the meantime, Locum posts are out to advert and we await the response to this. A further update can be given verbally at the Trust Board meeting on 29th October 2012.

Respiratory Medicine

Respiratory covers D19 and D20. There are currently 6 Consultants in post, providing week day cover and specialty In-Reach into EAU. One Respiratory Physician provides Community Respiratory support in addition to this. With the appointment of the 7th Respiratory Physician, weekend working will commence. Interviews to appoint into the 7th post will be taking place in early November, and assuming a substantive appointment is made, it is anticipated that weekend working will commence early in the New Year (date to be clarified). If a Locum Consultant can be appointed pending the substantive Consultant taking up post, weekend working will start at that point.

Diabetes

Diabetes covers D16. The Consultants have been doing weekend working since January 2012, at which time they had 5 WTE Consultants. The 6th Consultant has recently taken up post, and Diabetes is now fully supported for both the weekend working and the specialty In-Reach Service.

Gastroenterology

Gastroenterology covers D18. They commenced 7 day working and providing an emergency Endoscopy rota in March 2011. Gastroenterology also provides an In-Reach Service to EAU.

Haematology

Haematology currently provides 7 day working and In-Reach (a long standing arrangement).

Oncology

Weekend Ward Rounds have occurred since early 2012. In addition, Oncology also provides an emergency Radiotherapy Consultant delivered service, with a named person available every weekend since early this year.

Renal

Renal covers D15 (mostly Renal, partly Medicine) and D17 (medical). Renal has a longstanding commitment to providing 7 day working and providing a 7 day In-Reach Service across the hospital.

The 8th WTE Consultant Nephrologist took up post in September 2012 and 7 day cover is now provided across the medical patients of D17, as well as providing an In-Reach Service across the Trust, as has been previously described.

Stroke

Stroke covers the Acute Stroke Unit. Currently there are 2 substantive WTE Consultants and 2 Locum WTE Consultants in post. A substantive (one WTE) appointment has been made and will take up post in mid November 2012 (and replace one of the Locum Consultants currently in post). A further advertisement is to be placed to appoint into the 4th WTE post bringing the establishment to 4 WTE Consultants/Physicians. The Stroke Physicians have been providing a 7 day service since June 2012, covering the Emergency TIA clinic and the Acute Stroke Unit on Saturdays and Sundays. Incidentally, the Stroke Physicians also provide a Stroke Thombolysis Service 8.00 am – 8.00 pm Saturdays and Sundays.

There continues to be national interest around 7 day working with pressure from the specialty colleges and the Department of Health making recommendations to this effect to Acute Trusts. At a recent visit to the organisation by Professor Sir Richard Thompson, President of The Royal College of Physicians, he gave a presentation regarding weekend mortality and 7 day working and reiterated the RCP stance that 7 day working across clinical areas should be routine in medical specialties. Dr Foster is also preparing to report a further analysis of information regarding death rates for patients presenting on Saturdays and Sundays with specific diagnostic codes.