

**BOARD MEETING ON 6 JULY 2010
ALNWICK ROOM, MARRIOTT SUNDERLAND HOTEL, QUEENS PARADE,
SEABURN, SUNDERLAND SR6 8DB**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Business Plan

Andrew Lansley has set out a clear vision for the NHS: patient centred, clinician led, evidence driven, resource efficient. The implications of this for drug treatment are:

- We need to match the aspirations of service users to overcome addiction with treatment systems focused on achieving safe and sustainable recovery;
- Clinicians ambition, on behalf of their patients, should shape treatment systems;
- Interventions and systems should be rooted in the existing evidence of effectiveness while seeking to innovate to further improve outcomes;
- Payment needs to be explicitly linked to desired outcomes if the best value is to be derived from the available resources.

The outline of the NTA's draft Business Plan for 2010/11 gives more detail of how we intend to achieve this.

Decentralisation

The Secretary of State for Health is proposing to locate responsibility for the day to day decisions about health provision and resource allocation with groups of local GPs, with local authorities assuming a stronger role in public health. This is paralleled by the Home Security's commitment to locate accountability for policy with a locally democratically elected individual, through whom citizens will be able to hold their local police service to account. The landscape within which the NTA has operated since 2001 is likely to change rapidly over the next eighteen months with responsibility for priorities, pooling of budgets, accountability and performance management moving from the centre to localities. As this new landscape evolves, the NTA will need to ensure that we continue to add value adapting our approach and interventions to map onto the new world.

Cost Pressures

The impact of the deficit is beginning to be felt with budgets for this year being put under pressure across Whitehall, the NHS, Criminal Justice Agencies and Local Government. The pressures will intensify post Comprehensive Spending Review. The NTA's budget has been cut further in year and we will be expected to continue to fund efficiency savings throughout the CSR period.

No decision has yet been taken about next year's Pooled Treatment Budget, but local treatment systems will in any event have to find efficiencies to withstand cost pressures on local spend at the same time as meeting the ambitions of their service users, their communities and the government for improving rates of recovery from addiction.

Criminal Justice Interventions

The coalition agreement seeks to strengthen drug treatment's significant contribution to crime reduction through a "rehabilitation revolution that will pay independent providers to reduce reoffending", the establishment of "secure treatment based accommodation" for drug misusing offenders, and ensuring "that sentencing for drug use helps offenders come off drugs". We are currently working with colleagues in MoJ, NOMS, Offender Health and DH to make proposals to ministers to take these plans forward.

ALB Review

The outcome of the ALB Review is anticipated at the same time as the publication of the NHS White Paper, later this month. The NTA has been working closely with officials in DH and across Whitehall to ensure that the wider cross government role of the NTA and the contribution of drug treatment to the work of other government departments is properly reflected in the reviews conclusions.

Paul Hayes
Chief Executive
July 2010