

News in Brief



Director of HR Liz Richards presented

a review of Sirona's safer services tool which helps to identify teams under pressure so managers can take action to support staff.

Janet Rowse, chief executive, said it would be useful to have a variation for corporate teams.

Simon Knighton, chairman, praised the work with non-executive director Paul May suggesting the team sought academic validation for it.



Jenny Theed, director of operations and nursing,

presented the Safeguarding Adults quarter two report covering July to September.

Among the items highlighted was an increase in the workload for the social care ASIST team which had been resolved by increasing staffing levels.

Congratulations!



The Board were able to congratulate personally three members of staff behind a project which scooped a national award.

Sirona won the Learning Disabilities Nursing category in the Nursing Times Award for the innovative Journey to Wellbeing project jointly run by our Bath Locality Learning Disability Community Nursing Service and our Health Improvement Service.

Sarah Button, Dee Buchanan and Emma Evans, pictured with Simon Knighton, Sirona's chairman, and Dusty Walker, vice-chairman and chair of the Quality Committee, showed the Board a video created as part of

their presentation to the Nursing Times' award judges.

It featured service users being interviewed along with staff as the work behind the project was explained to the Board.

The project, which was funded by the Sirona Foundation, is a fun, accessible and interactive toolkit developed with Creativity Works to help support communication, change lifestyles and empower service users to participate and make decisions as well as raising awareness of learning disability services.

On the Agenda

The performance of services across B&NES and South Gloucestershire is reviewed each month by the board with Jenny Theed, director of operations and nursing highlighting particular areas of concern or success.



Jenny said social care was currently significantly stretched with particular challenges facing the teams from newly introduced processes for reporting; these have been raised with the commissioners.

And she said demand for the Yate and Paulton Minor Injuries Units continue to grow and this was also being discussed with commissioners..

The community teams are also working closely with colleagues at the Royal United Hospital in Bath and Southmead Hospital in Bristol to help speed up discharge and avoid delays in transferring individuals to the community for their rehabilitation.

However Jenny highlighted a risk in Bath and North East Somerset due to increased pressure this winter due to the closure of some independent nursing homes and the lack of availability of domiciliary care. The Board was told this has been raised with Commissioners.

Clive Bassett, finance and commercial director, praised the operational team for continuing to reduce the use of money spent on agency staff.



The vacancy rate at Sirona was discussed and director of HR Liz Richards said while it was lower now than three months ago, it was higher than this time last year. A focus on recruitment was on-going.

The Board was clear it did not want to transfer a high vacancy rate to Virgin

Care, who will be providing the majority of current Sirona services in Bath and North East Somerset in April following the your care, your way procurement. Virgin Care had also asked Sirona to continue recruiting to clinical vacancies to assist with the safe transfer of services.

Clive also presented the annual financial statements which show that Sirona is in a sound position moving forward with opportunities to grow having been identified by the Board.

Non-executive director David Purdon chairs the Audit and Assurance Committee and presented a report on its activities.



It has instigated an audit on cyber-security following recent high-profile attacks; chairman Simon Knighton said it was important that all staff were aware of the dangers. The IT team regularly promotes the risks of opening unexpected attachments or clicking on links.

He also told the Board the committee was awaiting a recent review of Sirona's compliance with the NHS Protect and Fraud Standards and an action-plan would be put in place once this is received.

Dusty Walker, non-executive director, who chairs the Quality



Committee, told the Board action plans were being developed following recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections at Sirona's Community Resource Centres in Bath and Midsomer Norton.

She was pleased to note action plans were already in place following October's organisation-wide CQC visit even though the draft report had not yet been received.

She also advised the Board while there had been an increase in the number of

adverse events reported, this was demonstrating an understanding for the need for good reporting as the severity of events had decreased.

Dusty also said the committee was reassured the number of pressure ulcers developing on individuals in Sirona's care was reducing but wanted it to continue to be closely monitored.

Chairman Simon Knighton reminded the Board it was



important during a time of change for staff that the Board and the Senior Leadership Team was visible to teams. He outlined a range of visits he had made in recent weeks and praised the dedication and commitment of all staff within Sirona.

Chief Executive Janet Rowse updated the Board on a range



of long term initiatives including the 3Rs programme in South Gloucestershire which will feature the redevelopment of the Frenchay and Thornbury Hospital sites.

She also spoke about the Sustainability & Transformation Plan within Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) and Sirona's input in the future.

The award of the children's community health services in Bristol and South Gloucestershire to Sirona as prime provider working with BCH, AWP and UHB was formally acknowledged by the Board.

David Purdon asked about the latest information on the reconfiguration of the Community Resource Centres and Janet confirmed Sirona hoped to complete discussions with commissioners fairly soon.