

PAPER FOR DORSET HEALTHCARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monitor

Report to provide an update on Monitor Rulings

PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper will provide an update on current action by Monitor

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to note this report.

AUTHORS

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Dorset Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested an update regarding recent findings and requirements of Monitor.

2. Monitor Findings

“Additional Licence Condition 1 – Additional governance requirements:

1. The Licensee must ensure that the Board and its committees-
 - a. are functioning effectively;
 - b. have sufficient capacity and capability to address the issues specified;
 - c. carry out the strategic planning, and provide the leadership, necessary to address those issues effectively ; and
 - d. urgently take all reasonable steps to ensure those issues are addressed effectively.

2. The Licensee must ensure that its Council of Governors is operating effectively.

3. Monitor Actions and Trust Action Plan

- 3.1 Monitor accepted an enforcement undertaking from Dorset Healthcare in which the Trust undertook to commission an assessment of the Trust's governance and quality governance arrangements, and to implement an action plan to address the recommendations of the assessment report.
- 3.2 The assessment report dated 24 July 2013 made 61 recommendations, 29 of which were high priority. The report identified issues in relation to the effective operation of the board of directors and overall governance arrangements.
- 3.3 In the light of Monitor's most recent rulings our Trust Chairman, Jonathon Walsh, decided to leave the Trust at the end of September. Jonathan was due to retire at the end of his tenure next spring but felt the time was right to depart this autumn, so that a new longer term chair could be appointed to help shape our response to the regulators – quickly and with real authority.
- 3.4 This decision was supported by Monitor and, whilst the Trust works with Governors to appoint a new chair, Monitor has identified an experienced interim chair, Sir David Henshaw, who started working with us in October.
- 3.5 In line with new structures agreed with Monitor, our new Director of Nursing and Quality (Paul Lumsden) started in October.
- 3.6 The Trust continues to work on the action plan agreed with Monitor and has set up four workstreams to deliver the project. We see our response to Monitor as a catalyst for change and an opportunity to return to our long-held position as a high performing trust.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint Scrutiny Committee is asked to note this report.

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