

Meeting Title: Board of Directors
(held in public)
Meeting Date: 28 November 2024
Agenda Item: 1.8



Report Title	Chief Executive's Report
Author (name and title)	Peter Reading, Chief Executive
Accountable Director	Peter Reading, Chief Executive
Previous committees/groups	None
Recommended action(s) Approval, Assurance, Information	Information/ Assurance
Purpose of the paper	To brief Board members on some important matters for the Trust, some of which may be covered in more detail elsewhere in the Public or Private meetings of the Board.
Recommendation(s)	Note the update from the Chief Executive's Report

Executive summary (overview of main points)

The paper gives a summary of the following key items:

- Budget
- CQC
- National Consultation
- Electric vehicles arrive
- Celebration of our STARS Awards
- Alignment of triage systems for 999 and 111 call handling
- Restart a Heart Day
- Heart of the community
- New partnership launched to install life-saving equipment across Calderdale and Kirklees
- Delivering lifesaving training at local mosque
- Specialist paramedics providing enhanced patient care
- Investing in Volunteers accreditation achieved
- NHS Forest Runners Up

Strategic ambition(s) this supports Provide brief bullet point details of link to Trust strategy	Our Patients	Deliver high-quality patient care and achieve the Ambulance Clinical Outcome measures.
	Our People	Invest in developing our people (staff and volunteers), ensuring they have the skills, support and resources they need to deliver high-quality care and services, now and in the future.
	Our Partners	Listen and respond to patients, partners and our communities to develop and deliver high-quality care, which is continuously improving.
	Our Planet and Pounds	Use our resources wisely and ensure value for money.
Link with the BAF Include reference number (board and level 2 committees only)		1a, 1b, 1c, 3a

Board of Directors (held in Public)
28 November 2024
Chief Executive's Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper briefs Board members on some important matters for the Trust, some of which may be covered in more detail elsewhere in the Public or Private meetings of the Board. Board members are invited to discuss any of these items, as they choose, and to note them for information.

2. Budget

- 2.1 In the budget last week, it was announced that day-to-day spending for the Department of Health and Social Care will increase by £22.6bn over 2 years. This equates to a two-year average NHS growth rate of 4% and capital spending will increase by £3.1bn in 25/26 - a two-year average growth rate of 10.9%, but lower than the overall value of the maintenance backlog, which is £13.8bn.
- 2.2 Further details are awaited and there is a second phase of the Spending Review, which will come in Spring.

3. CQC

- 3.1 The CQC's annual assessment of the state of health and care in England; identified significant issues around timely access to good care – particularly GPs and dental care – and persistent inequalities in health and care access, experience and outcomes, with serious concerns highlighted with mental health services and patients with dementia. The report also highlights the need to do more to address health inequalities at a system level.

4. National Consultation

- 4.1 The government launched a listening exercise as part of the development of their 10-year health plan to shape the health priorities for the next decade. They have asked for views and ideas of patients and the public, as well as NHS staff, to inform the next steps. The Change.NHS.UK website has had over 6,000 ideas submitted. You are encouraged to get involved, with a dedicated section for health and social care staff on the website – and there are events being held online during November and December, which you can join.

5. Electric vehicles arrive

- 5.1 Our vehicles drive over 40 million miles per year and under the [NHS England Net Zero travel and transport strategy](#) we have some set targets to reduce carbon emissions through our fleet. The NHS will have fully decarbonised its fleet by 2035, with ambulances following in 2040.
- 5.2 Over the past nine months, our estates team has been busy installing 109 EV charging points across the estate ready for the arrival of our new electric vehicles with more EV points being fitted in the next few months.

- 5.3 Last month has seen the arrival of the first of 35 new electric Patient Transport Service vehicles; the Ford E-Transits offer up to 120 miles on full charge. Bramley, Barnsley, Bradford, Doncaster, Hull, Scunthorpe and Wakefield have been identified as the stations that will receive the first ten PTS electric vehicles.
- 5.4 We have also started to introduce electric mental health vehicles and two all-electric emergency ambulances will be delivered in 2025.

6. Celebration of our STARS Awards

- 6.1 Our [STARS Awards](#) 2024 took place earlier this month, where we recognised some of the exceptional achievements of our staff and volunteers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.
- 6.2 We recognised their ongoing commitment to providing the best care to the people of Yorkshire and supporting their colleagues and the wider YAS team. There were over 120 nominations, across categories of Care Together, Lead Together, Grow Together, Excel Together, Everyone Together, Volunteer and Team of the Year, as well as commendations from the Chief Executive.
- 6.3 Highlights included staff who were recognised for their bravery in a firearms incident, a crew who helped to rescue a patient who had fallen into a river and a colleague who works with rough sleepers to better understand barriers to accessing the ambulance service.

7. Restart a Heart Day

- 7.1 Our eleventh annual [Restart a Heart Day](#) was a runaway success with around 35,000 students being given the skills to save a life in just seven hours. More than 750 off-duty ambulance staff, community first responders and volunteers from partner organisations visited 172 secondary schools to provide the life-saving lesson and help us build on our bold ambition to create a generation ready to act in the event of a cardiac arrest.
- 7.2 We were supported by [cardiac arrest survivors](#) from across the region who shared their stories to highlight the importance of bystander CPR.
- 7.3 And, in an exciting new development, we also saw the first five students, trained as part of our [Restart a Heart Ambassador Programme](#), deliver the CPR training at E-ACT Parkwood Academy in Sheffield to their fellow pupils.
- 7.4 In addition, we have launched our [Heart of the Community accreditation scheme](#) which recognises schools and colleges for their commitment to CPR training and defibrillator availability, another legacy of our Restart a Heart campaign.

8. Specialist paramedics providing enhanced patient care

- 8.1 The Yorkshire branch of the British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS) has partnered with Yorkshire Ambulance Service to launch an innovative initiative, which will see a number of Specialist Paramedics - Critical Care (SPCCs), volunteering with the scheme, where they will operate in their own time to support crews and provide enhanced care for patients.

8.2 BASICS is a charity focusing on pre-hospital care. The Yorkshire branch of the scheme recognised the opportunity to harness the expertise of the Trust's SPCCs who could contribute on a voluntary basis. The scheme already has a number of doctors across the region who regularly support Trust colleagues at the more complex incidents attended by the ambulance service; YAS BASICS paramedics are now available to offer support at similar incidents.

8.3 YAS BASICS doctors and paramedics are managed by the Trust's Emergency Operations Centre, which dispatches ambulance crews, including those for major trauma and allocates resources to incidents where additional skills or enhanced decision making could be beneficial. The paramedics started attending incidents during October, bringing their additional skills and experience to care for patients.

9. Heart of the community

9.1 The Trust and Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charity have launched the [Heart of the Community](#) accreditation scheme for schools and colleges across the region. The initiative recognises a commitment to providing life-saving CPR skills and defibrillator availability to ensure the safety of students and the wider community in the event of a cardiac arrest.

9.2 There are three levels of accreditation that schools and colleges can progress through as they achieve more of the evidence requirements; these range from taking part in Restart a Heart Day at least twice to making defibrillators available to their local community.

9.3 Since the launch of the scheme on 11 October 2024, 20 schools have already applied for accreditation and have been successful in achieving a Bronze Award. The accreditation scheme aims to recognise the efforts made so far by schools and colleges towards saving lives across Yorkshire by participating in Restart a Heart Day as well as their commitment towards defibrillator availability.

10. New partnership launched to install life-saving equipment across Calderdale and Kirklees

10.1 Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charity has joined forces with Cardiac Rehabilitation Exercise and Walking Heart Support Group (CREW HSG) to provide more community Public Access Defibrillators (cPADs) in the rural and urban areas across the district.

10.2 Generously funded by CREW, the [Calderdale and Kirklees cPAD Scheme](#) has been provided with £10,000 to install up to 20 new cPADs which can be used by bystanders in the event of an emergency to deliver first aid ahead of the arrival of an ambulance should a cardiac arrest happen in the community.

11. Delivering lifesaving training at local mosque

11.1 Two members of staff volunteered their time to support in delivering lifesaving skills training at Madni mosque in Bradford on Saturday 28 September.

11.2 [The BIMA Lifesavers project](#) is an annual event that works with mosques to provide important training to the local community around CPR, defibrillator use, and choking management.

- 11.3 Chris Solomons, PTS Ambulance Care Assistant, and Hanna Khan, PTS Call Handler, joined fellow volunteers and colleagues from Bradford Royal Infirmary to engage with approximately 50 members of the community.

12. Alignment of triage systems for 999 and 111 call handling

- 12.1 As part of our new strategy for 2024-2029, we set out our ambition to integrate our services for the benefit of patients and as part of this ambition, we have been exploring the option of a single primary triage solution (NHS Pathways) for our 999 Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and our NHS 111 contact centre. Following approval by our board, we are embarking on a major transformation project which will change the primary triage tool for 999 call handling in EOC to NHS Pathways, matching the tool used by NHS 111.
- 12.2 By aligning systems across both 999 and 111, we aim to make the patient journey smoother and ensure patients get the most appropriate care at the earliest point in their journey, with improved patient outcomes. NHS Pathways allows a more detailed assessment of a patient through a series of questions and through a Directory of Services, offering call handlers a much broader range of options for patients. It will also allow us to work better with our partners to help patients who do not require an ambulance response to reach the most appropriate care settings.
- 12.3 With a number of other ambulance services already introducing NHS Pathways across 999 and 111, we have learned from their experience and are currently finalising our plans and developing these for changes in technology, operating procedures and training to support a smooth transition. Training on the new systems will begin in April 2025 and progress throughout the year.

13. Investing in Volunteers accreditation achieved

- 13.1 The Trust is proud to have successfully renewed our [Investing in Volunteers \(IiV\) accreditation](#) - the UK quality standard for good practice in volunteer management. Assessed in six quality areas, the Trust met all 29 volunteering practices and had to demonstrate:
- vision for volunteering;
 - planning for volunteers;
 - volunteer inclusion;
 - recruiting and welcoming volunteers;
 - supporting volunteers; and
 - valuing and developing volunteers.
- 13.2 YAS is supported by almost 1,000 volunteers who offer their time to support patients, staff and communities. These include our Community First Responder volunteers, Critical Friends Network volunteers, and Patient Transport Service volunteers who make a vital contribution to the Trust and our patients.
- 13.3 The Trust's [volunteer development framework](#) sets out our ambitions for volunteering and we have further work planned to develop the type of volunteering roles we offer and recruiting more volunteers from across all our communities.

14. NHS Forest Runners Up

- 14.1 YAS has been named runner up of the NHS Forest 2024 Awards for 'Pioneering use of green space for health and wellbeing' at our Fairfield site in York.

- 14.2 The site in York has been undergoing a restoration programme and the judges highlighted how, over the last three years, our teams have been planting, constructing and creating a beautiful and expansive wild space for wildlife and staff to enjoy.
- 14.3 Supported by the YAS Charity, the scheme has also seen the installation of a green roof shelter to support green skills courses and set up a species recovery programme. The award was presented at the NHS Forest Conference.

15. Recommendation

- 15.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- Note the Chief Executive's Report