

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
ENGLAND**

The NHS Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group Directions 2019

The National Health Service Commissioning Board ("the Board"), in exercise of powers conferred by section 14Z21 of the National Health Service Act 2006 gives the following Directions.

Citation, commencement and application

- (1) These Directions are given to NHS Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group ("Ashford CCG").
- (2) These Directions may be cited as the Ashford CCG Directions 2019 and come into force on 13 May 2019.
- (3) These Directions apply until they are varied or revoked by the Board or 31 March 2020, whichever is the sooner.

Recovery Plan

(4) The Board directs that:

- (a) Ashford CCG will produce a credible financial recovery plan ("Financial Recovery Plan") within 8 weeks of the date of these Directions, which includes but is not limited to:
 - (i) how Ashford CCG shall ensure that it operates within its annual budget in financial year 2019/20 and remains in recurrent balance in subsequent four financial years;
 - (ii) identification of principal external stakeholder organisations and their role in the implementation of the Financial Recovery Plan;
 - (iii) confirmation that all facts, figures and projections within the Financial Recovery Plan have been subjected to scrutiny by an organisation approved by the Board;
 - (iv) a complete analysis of the causes of the current underlying financial position, the reasons for the deterioration in the financial position, and addresses these causal factors in the Financial Recovery Plan;
 - (v) a demonstration of clear links to internal budgets, reporting, activity plans, cash plans and contracting;
 - (vi) an implementation plan with timescales for the achievement of any efficiency initiatives identified within the Financial Recovery Plan;
 - (vii) a clear risk assessment of the Financial Recovery Plan; and

- (viii) any other requirements stipulated by the Board;
- (b) The Financial Recovery Plan should be consistent with and contribute to the financial recovery of the system of East Kent as a whole, and Ashford CCG shall ensure that it engages fully with appropriate stakeholders to achieve this, focussing on but not limited to:
 - (i) Delivery of Ashford CCG's QIPP plan for 2019/20;
 - (ii) Addressing the drivers of deficit within the organisation and where appropriate across the system; and
 - (iii) Reducing acute contract demand;
- (c) The Financial Recovery Plan and any amendments to the same, shall continue to be subject to the Board's approval;
- (d) Ashford CCG will jointly implement the Financial Recovery Plan with partners;
- (e) Ashford CCG will co-operate with the Board regarding the Financial Recovery Plan including but not limited to the prompt provision of information requested by the Board and making senior officers available to meet with the Board and to discuss the Financial Recovery Plan, the implementation and the progress of the same;
- (f) Ashford CCG will refer any required new substantial contractual commitment to the Board until such time as the Board is satisfied that Ashford CCG is operating at a monthly financial balance; and
- (g) It may direct Ashford CCG in any other matters relating to the Financial Recovery Plan.

Executive Team and Senior Appointments

- (5) The Board directs that:
 - (a) Ashford CCG will notify the Board of the need to make any appointments to its Governing Body, Executive Team or its next tier of management;
 - (b) where it considers it necessary to do so, the Board will determine the process to be followed by Ashford CCG in making appointments as referred to in paragraph 5(a);
 - (c) the appointment of any person to a position referred to in paragraph 5(a) and the terms of such appointment will be subject to prior approval by the Board; and

- (d) Ashford CCG will co-operate with the Board regarding the appointment of any person in accordance with paragraph 5(a), including but not limited to the prompt provision of information, documents and records requested by the Board and making senior officers available to meet with the Board.

Compliance with these directions

- (6) The Board directs that Ashford CCG shall co-operate with the Board regarding the Board's oversight of Ashford CCG's compliance with these Directions, including but not limited to the prompt provision of information requested by the Board and making senior officers available to meet with the Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Stevens', with a horizontal line underneath.

Simon Stevens
Chief Executive Officer
NHS England