

Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)
28 January 2015

Briefing Note

What is the NHS Trust Development Authority?

1. The TDA is the national oversight body for NHS Trusts who have not yet achieved NHS Foundation Trust status.

What are its objectives?

2. The TDA's objectives are to improve quality, delivery and sustainability in NHS Trusts so that they are in a position to apply to Monitor to be authorised as an NHS Foundation Trust.

How does it meet its objectives?

3. For NHS Trust Boards, the TDA publishes an Accountability Framework which is supported by planning guidance. In essence Trusts need to plan for improvement within the principles set out in the Accountability Framework.

How does it work with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service?

4. Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) is one of 18 NHS Trusts in the North (the rest are NHS Foundation Trusts) and one of 6 Ambulance Trusts nationally overseen by the TDA. For 2014/15 it presented TDA with a plan that indicated it would achieve the three national "Red" standards within its available resources.
5. The TDA meets with YAS's Executive Team formally each month to discuss progress with the plan on the basis of improving quality, delivery and sustainability. Where the Trust has not been achieving the plan, for example non-delivery of the Red standards, the TDA has sought assurance that interventions are planned by the Trust to improve the position. The TDA then tracked these improvements against delivery. The TDA also has numerous informal interactions with the Trust.
6. 2014/15 has been a particularly challenging year for performance standards both in YAS and in all ambulance services. There are numerous reasons for this but are largely down to:
 - Unprecedented levels in growth of demand for an emergency response
 - Challenges in identifying the resources to respond to that demand
 - Wider challenges in A&E, increasing turnaround times in hospitals resulting in fewer ambulances on the road.

7. 2015/16 looks like being another challenging year and in developing its plan, the TDA will work with the Trust to look to identify that sufficient mitigations are in place to deal with the issues that came through in 2014/15.

Warren Brown, Head of Delivery & Development
NHS Trust Development Authority

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