

BOARD COMMITTEE SUMMARY SHEET

NAME OF COMMITTEE: WORKFORCE

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: 12 FEBRUARY 2009

KEY POINTS TO DRAW TO THE BOARD'S ATTENTION

1. Investors in People Award.

The Committee supported the proposal that steps be taken to achieve the Investors in People Award.

2. Vacancy Review

The Committee received a presentation regarding a recent review of vacancies within the Trust; copies of the presentation can be made available should members of the Board wish to have one. Whilst providing the Committee with some baseline information it was clear that further investigations were necessary and the Committee requested that a further, more detailed, review be undertaken.

3. The Health and Safety (Offences) Act 2008

The Committee received a report outlining the provisions of the Health and Safety [Offences] Act. The Committee noted that under these new provisions the maximum penalties available to the courts in respect of certain health and safety offences have been raised. The effect of the Act being to:

- (a) raise the maximum fine which may be imposed in the lower courts to £20,000 for most health and safety offences;
- (b) make imprisonment an option for more health and safety offences in both the lower and higher courts;
- (c) make certain offences, which are currently triable only in the lower courts, triable in either the lower or higher courts.

The objective behind these changes is that sentences for health and safety offences are sufficient to deter those tempted to break the law, and sufficient to deal appropriately with those who do commit offences.

ACTIONS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

The Board is invited to support the pursuit of the Investors in People Award and to note the proposals regarding the Vacancy Review and changes to Health and Safety Legislation.

SUMMARY PREPARED BY: Lizzie Abderrahim

ROLE: Chair

DATE: 27.2.09