

## Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

<b>Subject:</b>	Chair's Report	4 February 2021		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Robin Smith, Head of Communications			
<b>Approved By:</b>	Lorna Branton, Director of Communications, John MacDonald, Chair			
<b>Presented By:</b>	John MacDonald, Chair			
<b>Purpose</b>				
To update on key events and information from the last month.		<b>Approval</b>		
		<b>Assurance</b>	X	
		<b>Update</b>		
		<b>Consider</b>		
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>				
<b>To provide outstanding care</b>	<b>To promote and support health and wellbeing</b>	<b>To maximise the potential of our workforce</b>	<b>To continuously learn and improve</b>	<b>To achieve better value</b>
X	X	X	X	X
<b>Overall Level of Assurance</b>				
	<b>Significant</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>None</b>
			X	
<b>Risks/Issues</b>				
<b>Financial</b>				
<b>Patient Impact</b>				
<b>Staff Impact</b>				
<b>Services</b>				
<b>Reputational</b>				
<b>Committees/groups where this item has been presented before</b>				
N/a				
<b>Executive Summary</b>				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective.				

## **Chair's Report – February 2021**

### **Chair's reflections**

January 2021, has been possibly the most challenging that Sherwood colleagues have faced during the Covid-19 pandemic. I know Richard Mitchell's CEO report will contain more detail on the pressure that both Sherwood colleagues and those of our partner organisations have been under. I do, though, want to thank everyone and recognise how hard they have been working, especially as this pandemic has now been running for almost a year.

As a Board, we will continue to do what we can to support colleagues and to ensure that the Trust's focus remains on patients, but also on colleagues, who will be understandably tired and frustrated.

I do have hope that the situation will improve in the coming months, and have been very impressed with how quickly the Covid-19 vaccine has been rolled out both in Sherwood, and across the region. Large numbers of people over the ages of 70, care home residents and workers, and frontline colleagues have now had their first dose Covid vaccination. The partnership working with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust has been excellent with staff across the two trusts working closely and I would like to thank them for their support and leadership in getting the vaccination centre programme going so well.

I know we have made some necessary changes this month in terms of visiting in our wards, in maternity and by asking patients to wear surgical masks. We understand that these challenges may be difficult for patients, their families and loved ones, which is why I was pleased to see the Family Liaison volunteer scheme introduced this month. I say a bit more later on in my report and if colleagues can spare a couple of hours to support the service, I am sure you would be welcomed.

I hope that colleagues feel well supported at the moment and are aware of the channels open to them to raise any issues or concerns, including through our Freedom to Speak Up Guardian.

We know that community Covid rates have remained very high throughout January, and I encourage everyone to keep following the Government's guidance, to keep wearing a mask, observe social distancing and keep washing your hands. We will get through this by working together.

### **Sir David Pearson**

I would like to offer congratulations on behalf of myself and the Trust to David Pearson, who was knighted in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for services to health and social care integration. David is currently the Chair Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Task Force and Chair of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System, and has been an excellent leader for a number of years. His award is fully deserved.

### **Family Liaison team**

Our teams understand how challenging and hard restricted visiting is for the patients we're looking after, and their friends and family. Therefore, during this period of visiting restrictions, we have introduced a Family Liaison Service, to support patients to keep in touch with their loved ones whilst receiving care in our hospitals.

Non-clinical colleagues, who can safely be released from other duties, working alongside Trust volunteers, who are members of staff giving up their own time, provide the Family Liaison service. Wards will be allocated support on a priority basis initially, with the expectation to widen the support when more colleagues and volunteers become available.

If families or friends want to send loved ones in hospital a message, photograph, picture or letter, they can email their message to [sfh-tr.familyliaisonservice@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.familyliaisonservice@nhs.net) or speak to our friendly team on 01623 676069.

I was also pleased to see that we have announced that the Trust is funding incoming telephone calls to the Hospedia device on inpatient bedsides for the next three months. This means that patients can receive calls from their loved ones without having to pay for them.

### **Around the world in 80 Sherwood wishes**

Over 80 strangers from around the globe sent thank yous and good wishes to our colleagues, in response to an appeal from a health care assistant aiming to boost her team's spirits.

Tori Proost, Health Care Assistant at King's Mill Hospital, sought to find a safe, unique and meaningful way to boost her colleagues' morale when they were at work looking after patients.

Tori received over 80 photographs from people around the globe, with hand-written messages celebrating '#TeamSFH, #Team44 and #TeamWTC' - with the furthest thank you coming from Sydney, Australia.

Some of the touching images were taken in front of famous landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House, Central Park in New York and the Colorado Springs.

Tori joined a Facebook group, where people around the globe offered to write personal messages, thank yous and words of encouragement to recognise and thank those working for and supporting the COVID-19 response.

### **Latest Consultant Recruits**

We are pleased that our recruitment continues to perform well in a very competitive market. In the last month we have been delighted to welcome the following consultants who have been appointed to Sherwood Forest Hospitals.

- Matloob Shajar – Consultant Anaesthetist started 4th January 2021
- Annie Richardson – Consultant Paediatrician started 4th January 2021

### **Visits to Trust Teams and External Meetings**

I am continuing to attend internal and external meetings regularly, wherever possible virtually and have recently attended:

- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Board
- Consultant interviews
- NHS Providers, regional Chairs update on Covid-19
- ICS Governance meeting
- Council of Governors meeting
- Governor inductions

### **Membership summary**

The Forum for Public Involvement group meeting was held virtually on Monday 4 January and we will be continuing to keep these meetings virtual for the time being. We have also paused the 'Meet your Governor' sessions and are working with our governors to help restore our connection with our members and the wider public.

### **Membership numbers**

Public members – 14,956  
Staff members – 8,887  
Total – 21,843