

Council of Governors Meeting - Cover Sheet

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

Covid-19 and winter

As has become customary, I will provide a verbal update in the meeting on Covid and winter, however there are some things we can provide more information on now.

The people who work in our hospitals are under enormous pressure and we have been caring for high numbers of Covid patients for the whole of January. More than twice as many Covid positive inpatients are in hospital at Sherwood now, compared to the April peak. Our Intensive Care Unit has been exceedingly busy caring for the sickest Covid patients.

As I write, it looks like community infection rates have begun to reduce as a result of the lockdown measures, so we hope to start seeing the effect of that in our admission rates, but there is always a lag between a drop in community infections and a drop in hospital admissions. The modelling suggests we may be at the peak in early February, but we are not anticipating a rapid reduction in pressure.

Since December, we have increased the number of people vaccinated against Covid-19 at the King's Mill Hospital Vaccination Hub. We have continued to focus on prioritising vaccinations for the over 80s, colleagues in care homes and front line NHS and care workers, in line with the priorities established nationally.

We were chosen as one of two sites in England to trial a 24 hour vaccination hub last month, which meant we were able to offer the vaccine to more people, in particular to those working night shifts. We have now moved our cohorts slightly and are inviting patients over 70 to receive their vaccine at King's Mill. It is pleasing to see the rapid roll out of more vaccination sites throughout Nottinghamshire in January.

I know January has been a difficult month for all of us, for both personal and professional reasons, so my biggest focus continues to be on making sure we do what we can to look after the physical and mental wellbeing of Sherwood colleagues.

This month it has been necessary to introduce further visiting restrictions for inpatients at our hospitals, and we have taken the step of requiring all inpatients to wear surgical masks where they are not in rooms on their own. We recognise this will be challenging for our patients, but these are sensible and appropriate measures at this stage to help prevent the spread of infection in our hospitals and to protect patients, colleagues and the wider community. We thank our patients for their co-operation and support.

In response to these changes, we have introduced a new family liaison service to support patients to make video and phone calls and to pass on messages when those calls are not possible. This service is run by hospital colleagues who have volunteered their time.

In January we welcomed a team from the BBC who interviewed a diverse range of Sherwood colleagues, focussing on how we are caring for patients and how we are coping with the current pressures. The resulting coverage across national TV and radio was emotional and I hope helped colleagues feel proud about the job they are all doing and helped our local community to understand more about what things are like within our hospitals.

As always, I would like to finish by reiterating how proud I am of all colleagues in #TeamSFH, the Mid-Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership and the wider system. Thank you for the remarkable work you are doing.

On Wednesday 20 January we held the sixth of our public broadcasts on Covid-19 and winter, where we were joined by Jane Laughton from Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The sessions enable us to communicate directly with patients and the community and to listen to their feedback and answer questions. [You can watch a recording of the session here.](#)

For those who are unable to join the sessions, we have also continued to issue regular updates for the community which can be read here.

[Update nine](#)

[Update ten](#)

[Update eleven](#)

[Update twelve](#)

We have also begun issuing weekly summaries of Covid activity and status directly to our Governors to help them and their constituents remain informed.

Other updates

Bullying and harassment ‘will not be tolerated towards Sherwood colleagues’

We are stamping out abuse towards hospital colleagues from patients and visitors by taking a ‘no tolerance’ approach.

In November 2020, we launched an anti-bullying campaign with the Mid-Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership. However, since this campaign launched, we have sadly seen a small increase in unacceptable and threatening verbal and physical abuse from a minority of visitors, partners and patients towards colleagues at Sherwood.

A further anti-aggression campaign has been introduced in our hospitals in January, with its purpose to remind people that aggressive behaviour towards colleagues will not be accepted or tolerated. I am clear we will not tolerate any abuse, bullying and harassment towards Sherwood colleagues. We have put simple measures in place which we are all required to comply with, in order for us to protect our colleagues, patients and visitors and to minimise the transmission of Covid-19.

The huge majority of people are behaving well, but sadly a minority are letting themselves and others down. In years to come, when those people are asked *‘what did you do during the pandemic,’* I hope they reflect and say *‘you know what, I got it wrong – I spent my time taking photographs of nurses, putting hurtful comments up on Facebook and I verbally abused midwives who asked me to put a face mask on.’*

Corah Ohadike to co-chair Doctor's BAME network

Congratulations to Corah Ohadike who last month won election to be co-chair of the East Midlands BAME network of the British Medical Association (BMA).

Corah's first meeting as co-chair took place in January and I know she has a number of ideas to help place Sherwood as a leader in promoting diversity within the NHS. We have made very important strides on diversity and inclusion across the last 12 months, and this appointment will help the Trust continue to progress on this vital agenda.

Next Month at Sherwood

We know that we will continue to be very busy as we continue to manage Covid-19 alongside winter pressures, and we will continue to play our role in delivering the Covid-19 vaccination. More positively we will be in a position to publish our latest national NHS Staff Survey results, and we will be delivering our presentations to the HSJ judges for the Trust of the Year, and Staff Engagement shortlisted entries.