

### Council of Governors Meeting - Cover Sheet

<b>Subject:</b>	Chief Executive's Report	<b>Date:</b> May 2021		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Robin Smith, Head of Communications			
<b>Approved By:</b>	Richard Mitchell, Chief Executive			
<b>Presented By:</b>	Richard Mitchell, Chief Executive			
<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</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 from the Chief Executive's perspective.				

## **Covid-19 and restoration**

As usual we will provide more detail on Covid verbally and in other agenda items, however there are some things we can provide more information on now.

Continuing the theme of the last few months, the immediate Covid-19 pressures on our organisation and system have continued to reduce during April. At the time of writing we have 12 Covid positive inpatients, whereas we peaked at around 220 in January. I believe we are seeing the positive impact of both the vaccination programme, and of the restrictions that we have been living with since the New Year. The vaccination programme is continuing to roll out, including through the King's Mill Hospital vaccination hub and we remain cautiously optimistic as the roadmap out of lockdown continues to progress.

A number of restrictions were lifted from Monday 12 April, including relaxing the number of people who can meet outdoors and the opening up of non-essential retail and outdoor hospitality. I know that this has been a boost for our local community and the majority of our colleagues.

However I am very conscious that we have colleagues who still will not be able to see family and friends, particularly if they live abroad. We have all been following the situation around Covid-19 in India, and I know that colleagues with family and loved ones in that region will be anxious about them. We have a number of wellbeing services that these colleagues can access, and have been communicating with them to ensure they are aware of the offer.

The easing of restrictions has also led to an increasing demand for emergency care, with our emergency care team seeing growing numbers of attendance. I would like to recognise colleagues who have been responding to that demand with safe and timely care.

As discussed previously, we now face the challenge of addressing the growing lists of patients that need our care for reasons other than Covid-19. We will continue to work with our system partners as we reintroduce more elective care, and will ensure our patients are kept informed, whilst being mindful of supporting colleagues who may be exhausted from pressures of the pandemic.

I was pleased to join an NHS Providers podcast last month, having the opportunity to talk about the pressures we have faced during the pandemic and recovery. The panel was chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive of NHS Providers, Saffron Cordery, and I was speaking alongside Siobhan Melia, Chief Executive of Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust. [You can listen to it here.](#)

I have also written a blog called "Passing the peaks; longer term support for colleagues after Covid-19" for NHS Providers. It can be [read here.](#)

We continue to operate a compassionate visiting policy, which remains the same as last month at the time of writing. We will continue to be led by our Chief Nurse Julie Hogg in finding the balance between the needs of patients and visitors and infection control.

On Wednesday 31 March we held the latest of our public broadcasts on Covid-19. If you were not able to tune in [click here](#) to catch up now. We have run eight of these broadcasts since August 2020, and they have been very valuable as a way to communicate directly with patients and the community and to listen to feedback and answer questions.

We have decided to pause the sessions for the time being, reflecting the latest situation on Covid-19 in particular, although we will return to them should the demand arise. I would also like to thank Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for their independent role in the broadcasts, representing the patient voice.

### **Sherwood Board changes**

As you will be aware by now, our previous Chair, John Macdonald has recently joined University Hospitals of Leicester on a one year secondment, and Claire Ward has stepped into the Chair role for Sherwood. We will miss John, and I know many colleagues have taken the time to add their thanks and tributes to John and the work he has done in his four years at Sherwood. I am delighted though that Claire has moved into the role, and am excited about continuing to work with her to drive further improvement at our hospitals.

I am also very pleased that Dr Andy Haynes has re-joined the Sherwood Trust Board as a Specialist Advisor and look forward to benefitting further from his knowledge, experience and commitment to patients.

Finally we have also confirmed the appointment of Shirley Higginbotham as a joint Director of Corporate Affairs for Sherwood Forest Hospitals and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trusts.

Shirley has been working as Director of Corporate Affairs at Sherwood Forest Hospitals since 2016 and has been temporarily working across both Trusts since October 2020. This has worked well and we are delighted that Shirley has accepted a substantive role across both Trusts.

### **Trust of the Year**

I was delighted that Sherwood was named Acute or Specialist Trust of the Year in the Health Service Journal National Awards 2020 on Wednesday 17 March. We were also shortlisted in the Staff Engagement and the Digitising Patient Services Initiative categories.

The HSJ awards are the most coveted accolade in UK healthcare and Trust of the Year is arguably the most prestigious category within these awards. To win this in a year when Covid has placed unprecedented pressure on us, the NHS and the world, felt particularly special.

This is a huge accolade for the Sherwood team. The award belongs to every colleague past and present at King's Mill, Mansfield and Newark Hospitals, those working at home over the last year or in our partner organisations. This includes Sherwood colleagues employed by Skanska, Medirest, Costa and WHSmiths, and our outstanding volunteers. We are also grateful for the support from our partners in the Mid-Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership, and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System.

We presented to the judges a couple of weeks ago the three reasons why we should win:

1. The wellbeing of all colleagues is at the centre of our decision making
2. Our community response to Covid
3. We are the most improved NHS Trust in the last five years.

I am so pleased the judges found our story compelling and I would particularly like to recognise Julian Kinsey, a patient known to many at Sherwood, who was one of the presenters.

Previous winners of the Trust of the Year in recent years are:

- St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust 2019 (Acute, Community and Primary Care Trust/ CQC outstanding)
- Northamptonshire Healthcare FT 2018 (Community and Mental Health Trust/ CQC outstanding)
- Northumberland, Tyne and Wear FT 2017 (Community and Mental Health Trust/ CQC outstanding)
- East London Foundation Trust 2016 (Community and Mental Health Trust/ CQC outstanding).

These trusts all have the same four characteristics; they look after their colleagues, they provide safe care to patients, they make a difference for their communities and they all kicked on after receiving the award and became a better place to work and receive care. We are now focussed on making sure we deliver on the fourth point.

I would like to personally thank all of our colleagues for what they have done to help achieve this. It is remarkable for us to be recognised nationally as the Trust of the Year, and I hope that all colleagues feel as proud as I do. Real change does not happen overnight. This award is because of the efforts of so many over the last ten years and beyond, but anything is possible if you look after the people around you.

### **National Annual Staff Survey results**

We have also received very positive news in March in relation to our annual staff survey results. Sherwood was rated as the third best hospital trust in the NHS Staff Survey results for 2020 (we were 18th in 2019). We are in the Acute/ Acute and Community Trust category and there are 128 trusts in total. For the third consecutive year we are also the best in the Midlands. This is a fantastic achievement.

Other highlights included:

- Sherwood was rated the second best Acute/ Acute and Community Trust in the NHS for morale
- We were third best in the NHS for quality of care , and
- We were fourth best in the NHS for team work.

Two specific questions I was also pleased about were:

- We were best in the NHS (again, please remember this is out of 128 trusts) for 'We are given feedback about changes made in response to reported errors, near misses and incidents'
- We were third best in the NHS for 'I would recommend my organisation as a place to work'.

As Roger Kline wrote in his BMJ article “Leadership in the NHS” this month; “how staff are treated significantly influences care provision and organisational performance so understanding how leaders can help ensure staff are cared for, valued, supported and respected is important.”

I recognise the last year has been incredibly challenging and it is particularly inspiring that there are lots of areas where we have seen a significant improvement, despite the challenges of Covid. This is a great achievement and is down to the hard work and willingness of colleagues to care for each other and our patients – thank you. We can also see there are areas where we want to improve and we are committed to continuing to work on these areas as a priority, in conjunction with colleagues across Sherwood.

The survey was open in October and November 2020 and 61% of colleagues responded. This was one of the highest response rates for an NHS Acute Trust, and the highest in the Midlands. You can see the findings more in depth [here](#).

### **More new services reintroduced to Newark Hospital**

In a new boost for residents in Newark and Sherwood, more new surgical procedures have taken place at Newark Hospital for the first time since 2014. In March 2021 the first patient for nearly seven years underwent an elective laparoscopic hernia repair at Newark, allowing local patients to be treated much closer to home.

The procedure is performed by keyhole surgery. Surgeons make three small incisions and insert special surgical instruments which allow them to pull the hernia back into place. This procedure has been reintroduced as part of the Trust’s restoration plan following reduced services due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Residents in the Newark area can now have the day case surgery closer to home instead of travelling to King’s Mill Hospital. This type of surgery joins a range of operations that are now available at their local hospital including hip replacements, knee replacements, treatment for joints and other orthopaedic procedures, many of which were reintroduced in September 2020 after a similar period of unavailability.

Thanks to all colleagues involved in bringing these services back to Newark, in a move which further underlines our continued commitment to providing services locally.

### **Visit to Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust**

On Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 April, Julie Hogg (Chief Nurse), Claire Teeney (Director of People) and I visited Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust as part of our buddying arrangement to support their maternity services. We were made welcome by the teams there and were impressed by what we saw and heard. It is clear they are putting a lot of effort into improving their services.

## **Pregnant women and support partners offered lateral flow test before scan appointments to help keep everyone safe**

We are now offering all women and their support partner the option to have a Covid-19 test before their 12 and 20 weeks scan appointments at King's Mill Hospital, from Tuesday 6 April 2021.

The tests being offered are rapid 'lateral flow' tests. Women and their support partner are being asked to come to hospital 50 minutes before their scan appointment in order to allow time for the tests to be carried out. The test is a simple nasal swab, it isn't painful and it doesn't take long.

Women and their support partner will be given additional information before their appointment and the information is also available on our website here – <https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/our-services/maternity/>

If a woman tests positive, maternity staff will arrange for them to have a further test to confirm that they are positive. This test involves another swab, this time from the nose and throat. This will be performed before they leave the hospital and they will be informed of the results as soon as they are available (usually 24-48 hrs).

If a support person tests positive they will not be able to accompany the woman to their scan and will be asked to leave the department and wait in the car/outside. They will be given information and guidance about self-isolation in line with the current government guidance.

## **First NHS Rainbow pedestrian crossing in Nottinghamshire opens at Sherwood**

I was really pleased to see our new rainbow pedestrian crossing unveiled recently – the first such crossing on a Nottinghamshire NHS Trust site. The crossing was opened in support and in recognition of the LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and all other identities) community.

The crossing follows on from the Trust's LGBT+ History campaign in February, which saw the launch of an ally scheme and commitment, colleague blogs and a rainbow flag placed outside King's Mill Hospital.

A 2018 Stonewall report on LGBT+ healthcare in Britain found that LGBT+ people face widespread discrimination in healthcare settings across the country, and one in seven LGBT+ people avoid seeking healthcare for fear of discrimination.