

Council of Governors Meeting - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chief Executive's Report		Date: August 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.				

Chief Executive Report – August 2021

We will discuss Covid and recovery in more detail elsewhere in the meeting, but it is clear that we have entered a new phase in recent weeks with rising numbers of Covid positive patients again in our hospitals, whilst we remain extremely busy treating non-Covid patients, both as emergencies and for planned tests and procedures.

With community infection rates high it would be expected that we would see an increase in Covid activity, and at the time of writing we have 29 Covid positive inpatients across our hospitals (for context we peaked at 220 in wave 2). It is positive however that the hospital admission rate is not increasing at the level we would have expected in previous waves. In general terms the patients we are admitting now are younger than previously, and the majority have not had both doses of the Covid vaccination.

We have been very clear in communicating with colleagues, patients and visitors about the importance of infection control and have reinforced that nothing has changed in relation to the wearing of face masks, the use of hand sanitiser and social distancing where possible. The changes that took place in general society on 19 July do not apply within our hospitals. I'd like to thank everyone for their continued cooperation with these measures.

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves and their families from Covid-19 is to take up both doses of the Covid vaccination. Our vaccination centre is still operating at King's Mill Hospital and I encourage everyone who has not yet had one or both jabs to book an appointment or drop in.

Given the increased pressures from Covid described, we have not made any further changes to our compassionate visiting policy within the last month, and our Chief Nurse Julie Hogg continues to keep this under review. The vast majority of elective/planned care continues at the moment, although we continue to monitor the situation and we are in control of any decision to reduce levels of activity if necessary.

I am very aware of the strain that colleagues within Sherwood, and across the system are under at the moment and I am very grateful for the manner in which our colleagues continue perform and the care we are continuing to provide for patients.

Our annual Recognition Week ran from 28 June to 5 July, culminating in the NHS's 73rd birthday, and it was good to take the opportunity to stop and recognise the many and varied achievements of all of our colleagues (including Medirest, Skanska and Bank colleagues) and volunteers across the previous 12 months.

Finally, you may have seen last month the announcement that at the end of September I am stepping down from Sherwood and joining Leicester Hospitals as the Chief Executive. The last four years have been the happiest years of my working and personal life. Sherwood is a great place to work and receive care because of our colleagues and I am certain it will only get better in the future.

Paul Robinson, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Executive will be the Acting Chief Executive from 4 October and a process to appoint permanently will begin shortly.

Trust officially opens £2m Same Day Emergency Care Unit

On Friday 18 June we opened Sherwood's new Same Day Emergency Care unit (SDEC) which is enabling more patients who require emergency medical care to be seen and treated within a day rather than being admitted overnight.

It is excellent news for the patients who will now be able to receive their care at the right place and right time, rather than being admitted elsewhere within the hospital, improving patient experience and satisfaction as well as allowing beds to be freed up for the Trust's sickest patients. Patients can be referred to the Same Day Emergency Care unit by the Emergency Department, their GP, a hospital ward, outpatient clinic, primary care or other healthcare facility.

The new centre is able to carry out investigations for patients including observations, diagnostic tests and treatments such as blood tests, x-rays, ultrasound scans, echocardiograms, antibiotics given through a vein, injections, wound care, preventing patients from hospital admissions. Test results and treatment plans are discussed with the patient in face to face consultations on the same day.

The unit, which was officially opened by Kathryn Allsop, the very first patient to be treated at the new unit earlier this year is open from 7am until midnight seven days a week and has 25 spaces for patients to be seen and treated within the same day. Thank you to all colleagues involved in seeing this important project through to opening.

Freedom to Speak Up

The 2021 Freedom to Speak Up Index was published at the end of May and can be found here [FTSU-Index-Report-2021.pdf \(nationalguardian.org.uk\)](#). The Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) Index, is an indicator that can help build a picture of what the speaking up culture feels like for people in Trusts. It is a metric for NHS Trusts, drawn from four questions in the NHS Annual Staff Survey, asking whether colleagues feel knowledgeable, encouraged and supported to raise concerns and if they agree they would be treated fairly if involved in an error, near miss or incident. Sherwood has done well. For the second year running we were the top performing Acute Trust in the East Midlands and this year we were also the top performing Acute Trust in the Midlands. We have a lot more to do to grow a culture where all feel included and all feel they can speak up, but we continue to make progress.

Annual Doctor's Awards

One of the elements of Recognition Week will be the annual Doctor Awards, with the winners being announced on Monday 28 June. Many congratulations to everyone that has won or was nominated for an award, and thank you to all colleagues who have taken the time to nominate a colleague – I know how much it means to people.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We have had some powerful conversations recently on Inclusion, the importance of the EDI agenda and the lived experiences of some of our colleagues, both as a senior leadership team and in our weekly live broadcast to the organisation. My thanks in particular to those colleagues who have shared their personal experiences, and I believe it is important to keep having these discussions.

July was Nottinghamshire PRIDE month, and it was fantastic to celebrate with so many colleagues, including with PRIDE marches at both Newark and King's Mill Hospitals. The month concluded with members of our

LGBT network joining our weekly virtual Staff Brief, and I know we are also working jointly on an ICS wide virtual PRIDE event in August.

Our EDI Lead has also been working with senior colleagues around we have developed a robust public statement on our website making clear our expectations of behaviour towards colleagues.