

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chair's Report	2 September 2021		
Prepared By:	Lorna Branton, Director of Communications			
Approved By:	Claire Ward, Chair, Lorna Branton, Director of Communications			
Presented By:	Claire Ward, Chair			
Purpose				
To update on key events and information from the last month.		Approval		
		Assurance	X	
		Update		
		Consider		
Strategic Objectives				
To provide outstanding care	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 over the past month from the Chair's perspective.				

Chair's Report – September 2021

Chair's reflections

For most people, August is a time when thoughts turn to holidays and time with loved ones. This year particularly, the opportunity to take a break, to reflect and to decompress has been crucial for all of us, but particularly for NHS colleagues.

We know our colleagues need a break, but everyone is still working incredibly hard to care for patients. This summer also has not seen the usual dip in emergency activity and we are still working to treat as many patients as possible who have been waiting for treatment. Combined, this has meant a busy summer, with our ED seeing similar numbers of patients as it would usually expect in winter.

One of the ways that we can support each other, both as colleagues and patients, is to treat each other with kindness and respect. This is sometimes harder when people are tired or stressed and behaviours can slip, but it is crucial in helping us to offer the best patient care and to take care of our own wellbeing. I was therefore pleased to see the launch of our civility conference, which will run from Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 September and will be open to colleagues from across our ICS. There are a range of free virtual events planned and I would urge anyone in health and care to pop along to some events if they can https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/media/11767/kmh_001292_civility-conference_2021-1.pdf.

I have been delighted this month to see that the Trust has been nominated for several awards. We have been shortlisted for two HSJ awards – one is a Partnership Award for our work with Proud2BeOps, a network dedicated to sharing best practice amongst NHS operational leaders and the other in the environmental sustainability category, for our important work on tackling climate change by taking steps to reduce our own carbon footprint and to limit our organisation's effect on the environment.

We have also been nominated for three Nursing Times awards – one for emergency and critical care; one in the enhancing patient dignity category; and one for the use of technology and data in nursing, focusing on the way that nurses monitored oxygen supply in Covid positive patients.

I wish everyone nominated the best of luck in their categories, you should all be extremely proud of your success and of your work on these outstanding projects. I am proud to work in an organisation which is recognised in such a diverse set of accolades, which truly represents what Sherwood is all about; our people, our communities and patient care.

Our community also continues to support us through our Charity and I am delighted to thank the 21 people who donated £5755 this month. This includes a donation from our pharmacy team, who raised an amazing £920 for our End of Life Care appeal, via a walking challenge. Thank you for your continued support and every penny is put to good use.

Finally, this is Richard Mitchell's last Board meeting as CEO of Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him both formally and personally for his leadership and commitment over the past four years. Richard has been an exemplary leader, who has led the organisation with courage and compassion, supporting it to change, develop and improve immeasurably. We will miss him organisationally, but he leaves Sherwood in an excellent position; respected locally and nationally, offering patients excellent care, with a team of dedicated colleagues and led by a strong and united Executive team, under the interim leadership of Paul Robinson, our deputy CEO, in whom we have every confidence for the future.

Personally, I will miss Richard's friendship, wise counsel, and support. We want to wish him all the best in his new role and we are pleased he is staying within our regional NHS family.

Sherwood Forest Hospitals asks patients attending A&E 'Is it Urgent?'

The Trust is seeing a surge in patients in their Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department on an evening, with patients with minor illness waiting a long time for treatment as a result.

Attendances in A&E for the past few weeks have been similar to the numbers we would usually expect in November.

We are asking patients to consider whether A&E really is the right place for their condition, particularly if they have an issue that has already waited during the working day. If people do need A&E then the message is not to wait until the evening when services are busier, but to come as early as you are able to get treated.

Ophthalmology patients set to benefit from new service at Sherwood Forest Hospitals

Ophthalmology patients have a new and improved service thanks to a new community diagnostic centre that has been set up at Ashfield Health Village.

The service, run by Sherwood Forest Hospitals, allows patients with glaucoma and macular degenerative disease to access a range of diagnostics tests as needed including; having a vision test, their optic pressures measured, a scan of their optic nerve and a field test all within around half an hour.

The diagnostic service was first trialled at King's Mill Hospital during the pandemic, to ensure that patients with these time sensitive conditions were seen in a timely way.

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.

- Dr Ahmad Abid –Consultant in Respiratory Medicine
- Dr Kavita Agarwal – Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Dr Abdelnasser Ahmed –Consultant in Acute Medicine
- Dr Umar Khan –Acting Consultant in ED
- Dr Leena Maddock Khan – Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Dr Melanie Willcocks – Consultant in Haematology

Visits to Trust teams and external meetings

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

- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Board
- Governor one to ones
- Governor’s Forum
- Maternity safety champions walk
- Board development workshops

Membership summary

The Forum for Public Involvement meeting was held virtually on Monday 12 July, and we will continue to keep these meetings virtual for the time being. We are also looking to recruit new members to the group and will share more details shortly.