

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chief Executive's Report	Date: 2 nd September 2021		
Prepared By:	Lorna Branton, Director of Communications			
Approved By:	Lorna Branton, Director of Communications, 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 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 Chief Executive's perspective.				

Chief Executive Report – September 2021

We will discuss Covid in more detail elsewhere in September's Board, but broadly the numbers of Covid positive patients in our hospitals are still small but are continuing to rise. We are also busy in both emergency care and in planned care for non-Covid related issues.

At the time of writing we have 37 Covid positive inpatients across our hospitals, which is an increase of 8 patients since I reported last month. The numbers are a lot lower than at previous peaks but it is concerning that they are rising again and I would urge you all to continue to make safe choices in the way that you live, to help to prevent Covid-19 from spreading and also, if you haven't yet, to take up the opportunity to have a vaccine. There are vaccination centres across the community and you are able to either make an appointment or to drop in when is convenient for you. You can see the latest opening times at <https://nottscg.nhs.uk/covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/where-to-go-for-your-covid-19-vaccination-appointment/>

August is always a time of change for NHS organisations and this month we welcomed our new doctors into Sherwood. Doctors rotate annually throughout their training, to give them experiences of different hospitals and disciplines and I want to take the opportunity to thank our new doctors for joining us, but also to recognise the doctors who have worked with us over the past year. These doctors have worked at Sherwood during some of the most challenging of times and they have given their all to provide excellent care during times of uncertainty and change. They are a credit to themselves and I hope their memories of Sherwood are of a supportive organisation that has worked hard to care for them as they cared for patients.

One of the ways that we build a supportive, learning culture is to encourage people to tell us when things go well or when things need to be improved, both in terms of patients and colleagues and I would like to take some time to focus on both.

For colleagues, the NHS has an excellent network in place of Freedom to Speak Up Guardians. They are there to provide colleagues with a safe space to raise concerns or issues so that lessons can be learned and things can be improved. We know that a culture where people can speak up is important in improving patient safety and I am proud that in the 2021 Freedom to Speak Up Index, we were ranked top of all (28 in total) Acute or Specialist hospitals in the Midlands. This was the first time we had achieved this. The FTSU Index is an indicator that helps build a picture of what the speaking up culture feels like for colleagues. The information comes from 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.

For patients, we encourage people to tell us how things are in several ways, but the most well established are through our Patient Experience Team for specific feedback, but we also value a general view of the experiences of all our patients and for this we rely on the Friends and Family Test. The Friends and Family Test is a very short questionnaire, similar to the types of questionnaire you might get after you interact with a customer services team in a retail environment. It doesn't take long to fill in and it gives us incredibly valuable feedback about how people are experiencing our services and where there are areas for improvement. If you receive a text or are given a form after being treated here please do take the few

minutes to fill it in, it means a lot to us and helps us to get better. You may also see QR codes for the friends and family test in our maternity and ED, which are a new initiative. You can also visit [Sherwood Forest Hospitals \(sfh-tr.nhs.uk\)](https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk) where you can also give your views.

As you may be aware, this will be my last Chief Executive's report to the Board. My four years working at Sherwood have been incredibly rewarding and I am proud of all that we have achieved together in that time. The organisation will be left in the very safe hands of Paul Robinson, our deputy chief executive, whilst a substantive appointment is made.

I will miss Sherwood and the people I have had the pleasure to have worked with, both in the organisation and more widely across the health and care system. I am lucky to count many as friends as well as colleagues and look forward to watching both Sherwood and the wider health and care system flourish over the coming months and years.

Further updates

Each month I am going to use my Board update to provide further information on some of our progress around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) which is summarised below.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This month sees our first ever Better Together event on 14 September, which will give BME colleagues the opportunity to talk about their experience of working at Sherwood in a safe and inclusive space. We will use the feedback from the event to develop our strategy.

During Carers week in June, we signed up the employer commitment with the Nottinghamshire Carers Association. As part of this commitment we are setting up a new staff network for colleagues who provide unpaid care. We will update on this as the network develops.

We celebrated PRIDE across the Trust and county in July and the 10 August saw the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS live virtual PRIDE extravaganza. The event provided education and entertainment and was also moving as staff across the system shared their personal stories and lived experiences. I was delighted to be able to contribute to this event with the closing speech and the event was enjoyed by many colleagues across the system.