

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chief Executive's Report	Date: 7 October 2021		
Prepared By:	Lorna Branton, Director of Communications			
Approved By:	Lorna Branton, Director of Communications; Paul Robinson, Chief Executive			
Presented By:	Paul Robinson, 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

This is my first Board as Sherwood Forest Hospital's interim CEO. I have always taken seriously my responsibility as a senior Executive for the health of our community, for our patients and for ensuring the wellbeing of my colleagues, but as CEO this responsibility now ultimately sits on my shoulders. I do not take this lightly and am so proud to be your CEO. I know that with the support of the excellent leaders I see all around me and with the continued support of colleagues across the organisation we can ensure that Sherwood continues to grow, to develop and to thrive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member to our Board, Richard Mills, who is acting as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) whilst I am in the CEO role. Previously Deputy CFO, Richard is an experienced leader and will be a strong additional to our Executive team and Board.

We will discuss Covid in more detail elsewhere in October's Board, but broadly the numbers of Covid positive patients in our hospitals are still small but continue to affect the way we are able to deliver care. We are also busy in both emergency care and in planned care for non-Covid related issues, where we are trying to reduce the backlog of people waiting for tests and treatments.

For most people, September is the beginning of autumn and a gentle goodbye to the summer. In the NHS September is the time that we start to gear up our plans ready for winter, ensuring that we have everything in place to help us to support our colleagues to care for patients during what is historically the busiest time of the year. Winter is always hard, but this year we expect things to be particularly tough.

We are rightly still working within Covid restrictions in our hospitals and this affects how we can deliver care; we have a backlog of patients who need tests and treatments that we couldn't provide during the peaks of the pandemic; and demand for our services is running extremely high. This sets us up for a difficult winter, but by working together and planning well we will prevail.

We are working across the health and care system to plan for winter and to ensure that we have the right services, in the right places for our patients. We have a well-developed plan to scale up certain services should they be needed and we continue to recruit more staff where we have gaps. We know our colleagues are fatigued, mentally and physically, and continue to support them to take some proper breaks.

One way that both the public and colleagues can help us to get ready for winter, is to ensure that they are fully vaccinated against Covid and also against flu if they are eligible for a vaccine. Health and care colleagues and citizens over 50 who had their second dose of the Covid vaccination more than six months ago, are eligible to book a booster and can do so online on the NHS National Booking Service or by ringing 119.

I have had my booster jab for Covid and my flu vaccination and it was a quick and simple process. I urge anyone who hasn't had their first or second vaccination to also consider doing so as it is the best way to protect yourselves and your loved ones this winter. We continue to offer walk ins for first and second doses in our King's Mill vaccination hub.

Last month we ran what we believe to be a unique civility conference, which was open to colleagues from across our ICS. There were a range of free virtual events, which were well attended and which sparked some useful conversations and action points. 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 behaviour can slip, but it is crucial in helping us to offer the best patient care and to take care of our own wellbeing.

On 4 October we will be launching the National Staff Survey. This is key for us to understand how our colleagues are feeling, how they experience work, areas where we can improve and also to celebrate those things which we already do well. Each year the survey informs us, through the voices of our colleagues, the things we are good at and areas we need to do better. From this we develop a You Said Together We Did approach with actions to improve, which the Board approves and the Executive team supported by our colleagues deliver. In SFH colleagues views really do make a huge difference and ensure that Sherwood is a great place to work and receive care. Our teams have historically been hugely supportive in giving their feedback and views, which is unidentifiable to encourage complete openness. We will be urging colleagues to take part and I hope that even during such a busy time people take the few minutes to give us their thoughts.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The EDI Lead role for the Trust will become substantive; this is great news for Sherwood and the appointment will enable the ongoing focussed work in support of the delivery of our People, Culture and Inclusion strategy but also local, regional and national priorities. The recruitment process will start soon and we hope to make an appointment late this year or early in 2022.

We are working with our staff network colleagues to plan for Black History Month and we also represented on the planning group for the Virtual ICS event, which is taking place on 28 October.

We now have three closed Facebook groups dedicated to our staff networks. These groups have been created on this popular social media platform in the hope that colleagues will be able to engage more with the network and each other. All members of the networks have been invited to join and membership to the groups is growing.

Sherwood Forest Hospitals was featured in the NHS PRIDE Week virtual PRIDE Parade on 10 September. It was great to see our march featured in this event.