

Chair's Report to the Council of Governors

Subject:	Chair's Report		Date: 10 th May 2022	
Prepared By:	Marcus Duffield, Associate Director of Communications			
Approved By:	Claire Ward, Chair			
Presented By:	Claire Ward, Chair			
Strategic Objectives				
To update on key events and information since the previous Council of Governors meeting.			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				
Not applicable				
Executive Summary				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items from the Chair's perspective.				

The past few weeks and months have been extremely challenging for our hospitals (and the NHS as a whole) and I would like to acknowledge the remarkable and continuing dedication, commitment and compassion demonstrated by colleagues across Sherwood Forest Hospitals.

Attendances for urgent and emergency care have been high and we have faced challenges discharging medically fit patients (those who no longer need the level of care delivered in an acute hospital).

Teams across the Trust have coped admirably to give the best treatment to patients and, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our thanks to them.

Welcome to our new Governors

I am delighted to welcome our newly elected governors to Sherwood Forest Hospitals. We have two new staff governors, to cover our King's Mill and Mansfield Community sites, four public governors for the Mansfield area and two for Ashfield.

Staff governors:

- Vikram Desai, Staff Governor for King's Mill and Mansfield Community Hospitals
- Justin Wyatt, Staff Governor for King's Mill and Mansfield Community Hospitals

Public governors:

- Janice Bramley, Public Governor for Mansfield
- Michael Longdon, Public Governor for Mansfield
- Ruth Scott, Public Governor for Mansfield
- John Howard Wood, Public Governor for Mansfield
- Liz Barret, Public Governor for Ashfield
- Jane Stubbings, Public Governor for Ashfield.

You are here to represent the interests of staff and our membership, holding the Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Trust Board. You bring valuable perspectives and play an important role holding the Trust accountable for the services it provides, as well as helping it deliver quality care to local communities.

More than 1,600 votes were cast during the election from our membership of 22,834.

New Chief Pharmacist

I was delighted to take part in the selection process for our new Chief Pharmacist. We have been fortunate to harness some of our existing talent with the appointment of Mo Rahman to the role.

Mo is currently our Assistant Chief Pharmacist and will be stepping up before the summer to lead the development of our pharmacy services with a vision to improve how we deliver care to patients.

System-wide meetings and engagement

We watch with interest as the legislation to enable the transfer of responsibilities to the Integrated Care System makes its journey through Parliament.

We continue to work within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire system to develop our collaboration with system partners that can help to achieve the aims of improved patient health and reduce health inequalities.

Each month I take part in meetings with our partners across the system.

In March, Paul Robinson and I met with district council leaders to learn more about how we might work together, particularly to establish how we might deliver services closer to people's homes and how we could engage with groups within our communities that we are not managing to reach as well as we should.

We know that many of these groups are among the least likely to access health and care services, so we must ensure that we do everything we can, working more closely with our partners to deliver services in the heart of our communities.

Trust welcomes international nursing recruitment lead

We welcomed the NHS's Deputy Chief Nursing Officer and national lead for international nurse recruitment, Duncan Burton, to celebrate our international recruitment efforts.

Duncan heard how we have successfully recruited more than 100 international colleagues, with more than 20 more waiting to be trained. During the visit, he met some of our international registered nurses and midwives before visiting our Same Day Emergency Care Unit (SDEC), RSU (Respiratory Assessment Unit) and Maternity.

He thanked colleagues for showcasing initiatives to improve patient care and our strong international recruitment programme.

He also awarded silver Chief Nurse Awards to Ardaine Ramos, a Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner in our Emergency Department; Clinical Governance Lead Nurse Kay Orgill; and Practice Development Matron Emma Bartle.

Well done to all three and thank you to everyone who helped make Duncan feel so welcome.

Changes to our Board

Neal Gossage who has served as Non-Executive Director for six years and was Chair of the Finance Committee, has stepped down. We are very grateful for the contribution that Neal has made and he will be very much missed by us all. We wish him well for the future and thank him for the support he has given to #TemSFH.

The Governors approved the appointment of a new Non-Executive Director, Andrew Rose Britton who joins us to take up the role as Chair of the Finance Committee. Andrew is a qualified accountant with previous experience as a NED.

Meeting our staff

The #TeamSFH Board were the first group to take part in the cultural humility training sessions during March. It encouraged me to learn more about our equality networks and the work we are doing to make our Trust more inclusive.

I was delighted to talk with Ali Pearson, our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead to understand the various networks and their focus. I will continue to meet with our networks to offer my support and to learn more about the challenges being faced by some of our staff. I was also pleased to meet the brilliant team working in the Medical Equipment Management Department (MEMD). They were recognised in our Staff awards last year for their contribution to keeping our equipment operational and the huge support they give to the rest of the Trust, so I was delighted to see their work in person.

I attended the Medical Managers meeting to discuss the changes taking place at Executive and Non-Executive level and to listen to their contributions and experience of working at SFH. I have regular walk arounds with Divisional Managers and Staff Side Representative, Roz Norman.

Well done to our climate team

It was a proud moment for me when we celebrated two years of our Climate Action Team during March.

During that time, the team of more than 20 colleagues, led by Dr Helena Clements, has put climate action well and truly on the map at Sherwood Forest Hospitals and in our wider communities.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the team continued to deliver its sustainability agenda, including the creation of its [Green Plan](#) which sets out the Trust's ambitions to reduce its carbon footprint and the environmental impact of its services, while supporting the NHS's net-zero target by 2040.

The team's achievements, so far, include:

- Reaching the finals of the annual HSJ Awards for their work at #TeamSFH and in the local community, and for promoting a greener future for colleagues and patients
- Supporting the Trust as we became one of the first NHS organisations to officially declare a climate emergency, underpinning our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint
- Prioritising and gaining commitment for their Green Plan
- Launching sustainable waste solutions
- Installing more electric vehicle chargers
- Educating the local community, trainee GPs and students on climate action
- Launching two phases of our Hope Orchard in the Trust and in the community.

Well done to the whole team on achieving so much in such a short time.

Charitable trust and volunteer activity

Well done to our #TeamSFH volunteers who were presented with their Long Service Awards – ranging from five to 20 years of service.

Thanks to all our long-serving volunteers and thanks to the 54 new volunteers who were recruited in 2021/22. I am grateful to them for offering their time, energy and commitment to our hospitals.

Our volunteers have continued to run the Family Liaison and In-patient Support Service throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a vital link between patients and their loved ones.

They have delivered hundreds of property packages and messages to patients, supported dozens of phone and video calls and even helped patients mark patients' birthdays, ensuring they didn't celebrate significant milestones on their own.

Volunteers also supported inpatient areas such as the Cardiac Catheter Suite and provided assistance in areas such as the Same Day Emergency Care unit and the Discharge Lounge while they were being used as surge areas.

High scores for our Maternity service

It was good to see the results of the Care Quality Commission's national survey of maternity experiences, which shows that new mothers rate our care highly, despite restrictions they faced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We scored well in the CQC's national survey of maternity experience in areas such as:

- Staff treating new mums with respect and dignity during the birth
- Being supportive and speaking to them in a way that they understand
- Including new mums in decision making and giving explanations and information they needed after the birth of their baby
- Cleanliness of the wards.

The survey was carried out in February 2021, during the third national lockdown and under pandemic restrictions. This inevitably influenced some of the answers and shows a significant drop in satisfaction compared to previous years around partners being involved in labour as much as they wanted and being able to stay in hospital, which is seen across the board in NHS hospitals.

The care we give to women and their babies, and the experience they have while giving birth with us, is extremely important. We know giving birth under pandemic restrictions has been difficult for new mums and their birthing partners, and this shows in these results.

We are already looking at ways that we can make improvements, and since the survey was carried out, we have extended visiting hours on our maternity ward and allow a birthing partner to be present throughout the pregnancy journey.

I am grateful to our Maternity teams for their hard work in often difficult circumstances and I would also like to thank the women and families who took part for their open and honest feedback.

The information they provide helps us development improvement plans where needed and highlight our successes.

Supporting national Administrative Professionals Day

In April we celebrated and recognised the hard work and dedication of our administrative colleagues.

Coinciding with World Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday April 27, colleagues were invited to take part in events through the week to support, develop and connect colleagues across the organisation, including nominating for the #TeamSFH Proud2bAdmin 2022 Awards.

Congratulations to:

- Georgie Schofield, Business Administration Apprentice of the Year
- Jayshree Wagstaff, Most Helpful Admin
- Paula Wilkinson, Admin Star of the Year
- The Corporate Secretariat, Admin Team of the Year
- Beth Hall, Best Newcomer to a Team
- Jill Murphy, Lifetime Achievement Award.

Well done to the winners and everyone who was nominated.