

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chief Executive's report		Date: 1 st September 2022	
Prepared By:	Rich Brown, Head of Communications			
Approved By:	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	X
			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
Identify which principal risk this report relates to:				
PR1	Significant deterioration in standards of safety and care			
PR2	Demand that overwhelms capacity			
PR3	Critical shortage of workforce capacity and capability			
PR4	Failure to achieve the Trust's financial strategy			
PR5	Inability to initiate and implement evidence-based Improvement and innovation			
PR6	Working more closely with local health and care partners does not fully deliver the required benefits			
PR7	Major disruptive incident			
PR8	Failure to deliver sustainable reductions in the Trust's impact on climate change			
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before				
Not applicable				
Executive Summary				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chief Executive's perspective.				

Preparing for winter

Despite the recent warm weather, our focus is now turning to finalising our plans for winter to ensure that we are properly supporting our colleagues as winter approaches to ensure they and our services can continue to be there for patients over the winter months.

Winter is always a busy period for the NHS and this is the first winter where we are likely to see combined pressures from COVID and flu at a time when, in truth, the pressures of last winter never went away. In fact, on an average day in July this year, the Emergency Department at King's Mill Hospital saw 14% more patients come through its doors than on an average day between October and February last winter.

This month, we are also preparing to deliver COVID and flu vaccines to our Trust colleagues and other eligible patient cohorts, as we look forward to again being part of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's continued vaccinations campaign.

We recognise the impact that these ongoing pressures have on our colleagues working across #TeamSFH and I will close this section of my update by placing on-record my commitment to ensuring that we put in place a plan which has a whole Trust response, including ensuring our staff are properly supported throughout winter and beyond.

I thank them all for their continued commitment, despite the exceptional pressures they are facing.

Adult speech and language therapists pilot in King's Mill's Emergency Department

We have been running [a pilot in our Emergency Department at King's Mill Hospital throughout August to support the early discharge and recovery of patients, by enabling patients to eat and drink sooner](#). The four-week trial saw us provide a dedicated Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) within our busy Emergency Department, Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) and Emergency Assessment Units (EAU) at the hospital.

Therapists work with a range of other healthcare professionals and patients' families to provide treatment, support and care for those who have difficulties with communication or eating, drinking and swallowing. They assist with the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of swallowing and communication problems and are instrumental in helping to reduce life-threatening swallowing problems in the early days after a stroke.

Before the trial began, an urgent referral to the Speech and Language service could take up to 24 hours and a routine referral could take 48 hours. As the service only ordinarily runs on weekdays, this means that a patient previously referred to the service on a Thursday who is otherwise medically fit for discharge would have had stay in hospital until Monday.

We have received positive anecdotal feedback about the trial already and, now it has concluded, we will analyse the results and consider whether to offer the services within the department on a more permanent basis.

I look forward to us being able to share more information about the trial and how it is helping our patients in the 'outstanding service' video at this month's Public Board meeting.

Little Millers Day Nursery rated 'Good' following latest Ofsted inspection

Last week, [we were delighted to finally be able to share the news that our Little Millers Day Nursery has been rated 'Good' following its latest visit from Ofsted inspectors on Wednesday 13 July](#).

The report highlighted a number of areas that the Little Millers team can be especially proud of, including noting that parents were positive about the care their children receive, feel their children are developing their communication skills, making good progress and are ready for school.

The improved rating represents a quick turnaround for the nursery after a previous report rated the nursery as 'inadequate'. The latest report confirmed that arrangements for safeguarding are effective and that staff have a robust understanding of the possible signs that may indicate a child is at risk of harm.

Ofsted also specifically praised the positive approach the Little Millers team has taken to the last inspection in the report, after a robust action plan was drawn-up between the Trust and nursery staff to address the points raised ahead of July's reinspection.

Work has now begun within the nursery to help restore the nursery's previous 'outstanding' status in-time for its next planned reinspection over the next six years, in-line with Ofsted reinspection schedules.

Thank you to everyone within the Little Millers team who has helped make this turnaround possible. I thank them all for their commitment to helping the facility to return to a rating that we feel more fairly reflects the quality of care we know they provide families there.

Regional thanks for Trust's support for local stroke services

Despite managing exceptional pressures within our own hospitals, the NHS – and our Trust, in particular – continues to see a wealth of examples where hard-working staff continue to work selflessly across geographic boundaries to ensure patients can continue to access the treatment they need.

One such example comes from our stroke services. I would like to pass on my thanks to two of our colleagues, Emma Gillies and Martin Cooper, after they received regional recognition for the work their teams have been doing to provide mutual aid to stroke services at a neighbouring trust over the summer.

Even as times have been exceptionally busy in our own hospitals, their teams going 'the extra mile' really embodies the CARE values we are so proud of and demonstrates the lengths we all go to in putting our patients first. NHS England's Medical Director for the Midlands, Dr Nigel Sturrock, noted their work as a 'credit to our organisation and its culture' and I could not agree more.

Freedom to Speak Up initiative receives national HSJ Awards nomination

In August, [we were proud to share the news that our 'Growing Our Freedom to Speak Up Culture at #TeamSFH' project has been shortlisted for a prestigious Health Service Journal \(HSJ\) award for encouraging staff to speak-up to improve services for patients.](#)

The submission centres around the Trust's successful project to rejuvenate, further embed and grow its Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) network, which has helped colleagues to understand that speaking up is an important part of improvement, learning, providing outstanding care, and creating a good working environment.

The Trust has a full-time FTSU Guardian, Kerry Bosworth, and 20 trained champions across the organisation, including a medical champion for the first time.

The national winners will be announced during the awards ceremony in November. Well done to all those involved in making this important work happen.

Risk ratings reviewed

The Board Assurance Framework (BAF) risks have been scrutinised by the Trust's Risk Committee. The Committee has confirmed that there are no changes to the risk score affecting the following areas:

- Principal Risk 6: Working more closely with local health and care partners does not fully deliver the required benefits
- Principal Risk 7: A major disruptive incident
- Principal Risk 8: Failure to deliver sustainable reductions in the Trust's impact on climate change.