

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

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| Subject: | Chair's report | Date: 3 November 2022 | | |
| Prepared By: | Rich Brown, Head of Communications | | | |
| Approved By: | Shirley Higginbotham, Director of Corporate Affairs | | | |
| Presented By: | Claire Ward, Chair | | | |
| Purpose | | | | |
| An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective. | | | 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 Chair's perspective. | | | | |

Celebrating the best of Sherwood Forest Hospitals at our annual *Excellence Awards*

[On Friday 7 October, the Trust hosted its annual *Excellence Awards* to celebrate our Trust colleagues and partners who have gone above-and-beyond the call of duty for patients and the communities we serve over the past year.](#)

I was delighted to be able to join colleagues from the Trust's Executive Team to announce the winners of this year's awards across 18 categories – including a special Chair's Award, which I was delighted to award to colleagues from our Sherwood Community Unit.

The Unit has been a hugely important part of our Trust plans to help free-up hospital beds for those patients that need them most this year, which has seen the Trust look creatively to extend the walls of its hospitals to transform an old care home into a temporary ward. The Unit plays an important role of providing transitional support for patients who no longer require hospital treatment but are waiting for confirmation of their discharge packages before they can be discharged to their home, care home or another community setting.

Lindsey Chapman, the Unit's Head of Nursing, has been an exceptional and inspirational leader throughout the first six months of the Unit opening, ensuring that the Unit provided safe and effective care while always demonstrating and setting the standards expected. She has been well supported by Mandy Toplis, her deputy, and Claire Haywood, who agreed to step-up to take the role of sister and lead nurse for the unit.

The team have been widely supported by colleagues from across the trust including in Skanska, Medirest and IPC who were all pivotal in helping to set up run and manage the unit.

I look forward to getting out to meet the team to present their award to them in person, as well as sharing more details about the Unit's work publicly over the coming weeks.

Starting work to refresh the Trust's five-year strategy

The Board set aside time together over the past month to prioritise planning for the future strategy of the Trust – an important piece of work that will set the direction of the organisation as we look to the future with a new-look Executive Team and working with our Integrated Care System partners.

Together, we considered the views of several partners, ranging from neighbouring NHS organisations to the wider public sector – including colleagues from the education sector.

Giving consideration to the way we plan and deliver services (as well as how we respond to the changing system architecture) was also at the heart of those conversations. We also recognised that getting closer to the communities we serve and positively impacting upon the challenges people face in their lives will be a critical success factor for that work.

I look forward to proposing a revised five-year strategy to the Board in the New Year.

October is Freedom to Speak Up month

The Trust has been supporting Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) month throughout October as a month-long celebration to raise awareness and celebrate the difference that Freedom to Speak Up is making – including within the Trust.

The Trust's FTSU Champions have been out-and-about across the Trust's hospitals during the month, visiting each site to promote the work of the Champions so that colleagues know they will be supported when they do speak up. It is also vital that we all understand that speaking-up is an important part of improvement, learning and providing outstanding care.

We are really proud that 70.9% of our Trust colleagues told us in the 2021 NHS National Staff Survey that they would feel safe to speak up about anything that concerns them about the organisation, with 61.5% also saying they would be confident the organisation would act upon those concerns when raised. While there is always room for improvement, those scores place us well above the national averages in both categories and reflects the emphasis we have placed on this important area of work.

Our FTSU champions and guardian play an important part in making our hardworking NHS colleagues feel safe and supported in their work. I am grateful to them all for their continued contributions.

Continuing our ‘Meet your governor sessions’ across our hospitals

A programme of the Trust’s *Meet Your Governor* events also took place during week commencing 24 October, allowing our Trust governors to get out-and-about in our hospitals and the wider community to talk to patients and members about their experiences of accessing our services.

The outcomes of those discussions will be fed back to the Trust to consider how it can improve its services in future, with similar sessions also planned for November and December.