

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chair's report	Date: 5 th January 2023		
Prepared By:	Rich Brown, Head of Communications			
Approved By:	Claire Ward, Chair			
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.				

Pressures: Recognising the impact of winter pressures on our hardworking colleagues

The Chief's Executive's report to Board references the pressures that we have seen continuing throughout the year – and some of the causes that are compounding those pressures.

As Chair, I know I speak on behalf of the whole Trust Board in wanting to be proactive in recognising the extreme and relentless operational pressures that our hospitals have been under throughout 2022 – and the consequent impact this has on our hardworking #TeamSFH staff and volunteers.

While it is unlikely that we will see any reduction in this demand and activity for several months, the Trust Board have heard stories from a variety of teams across SFH regarding the personal and professional impact felt by this activity.

Like NHS organisations across the country right now, we are endeavouring to provide the best possible care that we can within the current situation.

We are so incredibly grateful to all our teams for the pressures they are continuing to manage so brilliantly and I would like to offer my personal thanks, on behalf of the Board, for the tireless efforts our hardworking colleagues continue to make – both professionally and personally.

As a Trust Board, we recognise the need to support each other during this time – both as teams and as individuals. We are proud to prioritise the wellbeing of our hardworking colleagues and we will continue to be proactive in supporting them however we can.

We already offer a comprehensive support for colleagues' physical, mental and financial wellbeing – and that is something I know we will continue to develop well into 2023.

To any of our colleagues who happen to read this report: thank you for all that you do.

Community Involvement: A thank you to everyone for their amazing donations this Christmas and New Year

As a Trust, we receive such incredible support from the local communities we are so proud to serve throughout the year – and that is never more true than at Christmas time!

Throughout December, we have been blown away with generous donations of everything from flowers and chocolates to clothing and gifts from the community who have shown their strength of feeling towards our staff, patients, volunteers – and the outstanding patient care we are proud to offer here at Sherwood.

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to our hospitals and to the Trust Charity throughout 2022. Your support is genuinely invaluable.

In addition, I would also like to thank our amazing Trust volunteers and governors for the roles they all play in helping to make our hospitals a better place to give and receive care. We are our community – and that is never more true than with our volunteers and governors, be it in giving their time to support patient care or helping to better involve our community in our services.

Showcasing the range of improvements we continue to make at Newark Hospital

We know how much local people value Newark Hospital and, as a Trust, we are committed to working with our partners to expanding and improving the services available there.

During December, I have undertaken several visits to Newark Hospital to talk to staff, to hear how they're feeling and to ensure we're targeting our support and improvements in the right areas.

During the month, I was also delighted to welcome Robert Jenrick MP (Newark) on a visit to the site to showcase some of the great work that is going on there to make Newark Hospital a valued and vibrant part of the community.

I look forward to sharing more details of those announcements over the coming months.

Update following the relaunch of our amazing 24-hour home birth service



As the Trust's Non-Executive Board Member responsible for Maternity Safety, I am delighted to share an update on number of babies who have been born at home since the relaunch of a hospital trust's 24-hour home birth service.

There were a total of five home births in October, 2 in November and four more were due to be born in December.

Freya (pictured above) was the first to be born at home after Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust restarted its full 24-hour service in mid-September. The new arrival, who weighed 7lbs 2oz, arrived in a birthing pool at home in Swinderby, Lincolnshire. She is the first child for Kamila (pictured) and Hugh Cornwell.

For a year the service had been limited to Mondays to Fridays between 9am and 5pm during the pandemic. As a result of successful recruitment to the community midwifery team, the 24-hour service was able to safely restart, and the team were busy upskilling in preparation for the relaunch.

Those who are well and are having a straightforward pregnancy may want to consider a home birth for a variety of reasons, including the benefits it can bring.

We know how important it is for families to have personalised choice and reinstating the full 24-hour service as soon as it was safe to do so has been a priority for us.

Congratulations to Kamila and Hugh on the birth of Freya – and thank you to our amazing maternity team who have helped to make the return of our fabulous 24-hour home birth service possible.