

## Council of Governors - Cover Sheet

<b>Subject:</b>	Chair's Report		<b>Date:</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023	
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Rich Brown, Head of Communications			
<b>Approved By:</b>	Claire Ward, Chair			
<b>Presented By:</b>	Claire Ward, Chair			
<b>Purpose</b>				
To update on key events and information from the Chair's perspective since the previous Council of Governors meeting.			<b>Approval</b>	
			<b>Assurance</b>	X
			<b>Update</b>	X
			<b>Consider</b>	
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>				
<b>To provide outstanding care</b>	<b>To promote and support health and wellbeing</b>	<b>To maximise the potential of our workforce</b>	<b>To provide outstanding care</b>	<b>To promote and support health and wellbeing</b>
X	X	X	X	X
<b>Identify which principal risk this report relates to:</b>				
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			
<b>Committees/groups where this item has been presented before</b>				
Not applicable				
<b>Executive Summary</b>				
To update on key events and information from the Chair's perspective since the last Council of Governors meeting.				
The report includes updates on the following areas, with full details provided in Appendix One below:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognising the impact of NHS pressures on our hardworking colleagues</li> <li>• Continuing to ensure Sherwood's voice is heard as the ICB defines its longer-term strategy</li> <li>• How we are extending our work with West Nottinghamshire College</li> <li>• Our preparations for this year's Council of Governor elections</li> </ul>				

## **APPENDIX ONE: CHAIR'S REPORT IN FULL:**

### **Pressures: Recognising the impact of pressures on our hardworking colleagues**

The Chief's Executive's report 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 already in 2023.

In recognising the scale of those challenges, it is also particularly important to recognise 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 working hard 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 #TeamSFH colleagues who happen to read this report: thank you for all that you do.

### **Continuing to ensure Sherwood's voice is heard as the ICB defines its longer-term strategy**

Since the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB formed in July 2022, I – along with our Chief Executive, Paul Robinson and the whole Executive Team – have been keen to ensure that the voice of Sherwood Forest Hospitals, its staff and its patients are heard at every opportunity.

That has been true throughout the regular meetings that Paul and I have with the Chair and Chief Executive of the ICB, as well as through more structured engagement – like the work that is currently ongoing across the ICB to define, refine and roll-out its longer-term strategy to shape the future of how health and care services are provided across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

We will continue to engage in the formation of that strategy and I look forward to bringing further updates to the Board about the progress of that work in future meetings.

### **We are committed to working with our partners for the benefit of our local communities**

One key development I am proud to share from over recent weeks has been the strengthening of our commitment to working with our local partners – namely in [signing an agreement with West Nottinghamshire College that commits us to working more closely together for the benefit of our local communities](#).

That agreement strengthens the relationship we are already enjoying, including by support local learners into employment within the local NHS, creating opportunities for work experience and committing our Executive Team to take part in regular Q&As with learners to have their say on the running of their local hospitals.

I was delighted to attend [the recent Step into the NHS recruitment event we hosted alongside the College that was attended by over 650 people](#). That was a vital first public demonstration of that commitment, with the event resulting in the Trust making a number of vital connections with local people who are considering pursuing a career in the NHS.

I look forward to that fruitful partnership continuing.



Partnership is a key part of our focus because we know that by working collaboratively with local stakeholders we can tackle some of the factors that make it more likely that members of the public will become patients in our care. For example, we know that if we can work with local councils and primary care services to promote better health, improve early access to advice and care in the community and improve housing and employment opportunities - a healthy population is less likely to need on going acute services. Paul Robinson and I have regular meetings with local council leaders and chief executives to identify areas where together we can make a greater impact. It has been a very positive decision for local council leaders at Mansfield, Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood to take on leadership roles in the Place Based Partnership – which helps to bring a variety of statutory and voluntary organisations to work together in the local community.

### **Preparing for this year's Council of Governor elections**

In April 2023, the Trust will be opening polls once again to elect governors to five vacancies we currently have on our Council of Governors.

The role of a governor within a Foundation Trust like ours is an essential part of ensuring that our hospitals are as responsive as they can be to the needs of our local community – including by offering actionable feedback to the Trust and our colleagues.

We will soon be sharing details of how anyone interested in becoming a governor of the Trust can do so ahead of the next election for our Council of Governors, with [more general information about how to become a governor available on our Trust website](#).

I would encourage anyone interested in becoming a Trust governor to check out the information on our website or to reach out to me direct to discuss those vacancies and the exciting opportunities they could lead to. I am sure that our existing governors can talk about their activities and why they decided to stand for election.

As part of this work, work has already begun to review the Trust's approach to communicating the benefits of becoming a member and how we support our governors to engage with our membership and recruit younger members to make our membership more representative of the communities we serve. This approach was presented at the most recent Council of Governors Membership and Engagement meeting and work is now underway to deliver on those plans, which governors will be kept informed about via the Head of Communications over the weeks ahead.

### **Trust Activities**

I continue to visit different parts of the organisation on a regular basis including:

- 15 steps visits to wards at Kingsmill
- Chair visits to Newark UTC and wards
- Meetings with the leads of our diversity networks
- Undertaking my role as the NED Maternity Safety Champion with visits across maternity and NICU
- Meetings with other Chairs across the system and our partner organisations