

## Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

<b>Subject:</b>	Chair's report	<b>Date:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 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>				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective.			<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 continuously learn and improve</b>	<b>To achieve better value</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>				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective.				

## **Maternity services at King's Mill Hospital continue to be rated as 'good' following latest CQC inspection**

One of the main updates to share from the month gone by has been the publication of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) report, following the CQC's most recent inspection of the Trust's Maternity services.

As the Trust's Chair and Non Executive Director Maternity Safety Champion, I am proud to share that Maternity services at King's Mill Hospital have been rated 'good' and that – as a result – King's Mill Hospital as a whole remains 'outstanding'.

The overall rating of Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust remains 'good'.

The inspection, which took place in November 2022 as part of the CQC's national review of maternity services, looked at two of the five areas the CQC uses to evaluate NHS trusts – well-led and safe.

The CQC did not look at the other three key areas, meaning caring remains 'outstanding', while effective and responsive remain 'good' from the previous inspection in 2018. Maternity services at Newark Hospital were not considered as part of the CQC's latest inspection.

As a Trust, we are really proud of many of the positive observations that inspectors noted following their inspection, including that:

- The service had enough maternity and medical staff with the right qualifications, skills, training and experience to keep women and babies safe from avoidable harm and to provide the right care and treatment.
- Staff understood how to protect women from abuse and the service worked well with other agencies to do so.
- Infection risk was well-controlled. Equipment and premises were visibly clean.
- The design, maintenance and use of facilities, premises and equipment kept people safe.
- Records of women's care and treatment were detailed, clear, up to date, stored securely and easily available to all staff.
- The service managed safety incidents well. Managers investigated incidents and shared lessons learned with the whole team and the wider service. When things went wrong, staff apologised and gave women honest information and suitable support.
- Leaders had the skills and abilities to run the service, were approachable for women and staff, and supported staff to develop their skills and take on more senior roles.
- Staff felt respected, supported and valued, and were focused on the needs of women receiving care. The service promoted equality and diversity and provided opportunities for career development. The service had an open culture where women, families and staff could raise concerns without fear.

- Leaders operated effective governance processes, throughout the service and with partner organisations. Staff at all levels were clear about their roles and accountabilities.

Several areas for improvement, which the Trust proactively identified to the CQC, were also confirmed during the inspection. This resulted in the safe aspect being rated as 'requires improvement'.

In order to improve our rating of 'requires improvement' under the safe domain, the Trust must:

- Ensure staff complete mandatory, safeguarding and maternity specific training in line with the Trust's own target
- Implement a robust system in maternity triage to include escalation process, monitoring and documentation.

The CQC also issued a number of points of advice to the Trust, including to:

- Ensure all medicines are stored safely and appropriately in line with Trust policy.
- Continue to implement the new electronic maternity notes system (known as BadgerNotes) that is already being rolled-out across our Maternity services
- Where audits identify issues, the Trust should undertake further audits to demonstrate if improvements and changes in practice have improved patient outcomes and improved practice
- Leaders should continue to implement improvements to how they effectively communicate any changes in service provision with staff.

We share the CQC's ambition to provide the best possible Maternity services to our local communities and we welcome their feedback on how we can make our already 'good' Maternity services even better.

I know that work is already underway to address each of those points, with our colleagues already receiving training ahead of the launch of a new maternity triage system. Staff training levels have increased significantly since the inspection, thanks to their dedication.

Each month, I take part in a walk around the maternity ward including NICU to talk to staff and patients. These visits allow myself and executives to understand the challenges but also to ensure that staff and patients have an opportunity to raise any matters with us. I want to thank our staff who work hard to provide excellent, safe and compassionate care to our expectant and new parents and their babies.

## Maternity: Tobacco dependency team welcomes 101 'smoke-free' babies in first year

I am delighted to introduce baby Emily Thompson from Newark, who is pictured here with her parents.

Emily was born at King's Mill Hospital on Boxing Day 26 December 2022, weighing 6lb 2oz.

Emily is the 101<sup>st</sup> 'smoke-free' baby to be born thanks to support from the Trust's Phoenix Team – a maternity tobacco dependence treatment service.

Her mum Martyna Franasz (31) quit smoking in July when she was pregnant with Emily, thanks to support from the team.

The service, which was set up at the end of 2021, helps mothers and birthing parents to give up smoking during pregnancy with support from trained tobacco dependence advisors and free nicotine replacement products.

People can refer themselves or be referred by a health professional such as a midwife or doctor. A member of their household or close family, such as a partner, can also receive support to quit smoking if they wish.



In England, the rate of pregnant women and people smoking at the time of birth is 9.1%. At Sherwood Forest Hospitals, it's 16.23%. Quitting smoking while pregnant reduces the risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth, low birth weight, heart defects and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Smoking can cause serious health problems for mums and babies, and that's why the support we provide is so vitally important. It can be difficult to stop smoking, but it's never too late to quit. Stopping smoking is one of the best things you can do to give a child a healthy start - it immediately reduces the effects of harmful gases such as carbon monoxide, and other damaging chemicals.

It's been an amazing first year for the service and we are proud to have welcomed 101 babies into the world, who have each benefited from support from the service.

Well done and congratulations to all the families who have already benefited from the Phoenix Team's support.

## Maternity: Emily Harris Foundation raises quarter of a million pounds for King's Mill Hospital's Neonatal Unit



I wanted to place on record my thanks to everyone involved in the Emily Harris Foundation, after they celebrated raising a quarter of a million pounds.

The Emily Harris Foundation is a charity that supports the families of babies born too soon or needing medical treatment.

The Foundation was founded by Clare Harris of Clipstone Village (pictured above) on 5 September 2008 on what would have been her daughter Emily's second birthday. It raises money for the neonatal intensive care unit at King's Mill Hospital.

Emily, born six weeks prematurely with a serious heart condition, spent ten weeks in the Trust's neonatal intensive care unit but sadly died in 2007 at just five months old.

After seeing first-hand how the unit benefits the parents of newborn babies needing extra care, Clare and her husband Neil agreed that they wanted to do something more for the unit. This led to their decision to start the Emily Harris Foundation. Initially, the charity provided essential items such as nappies to new parents, but over the years donations, which come from a mixture of family, friends and supporters, have grown tremendously.

We are truly thankful at SFH to have the support from Clare, Neil and everyone involved within the Emily Harris Foundation.

The charity regularly donates items to support families and staff, as well as making bigger one-off donations when needed. All families on the unit receive a Welcome Pack which includes essential items such as nappies and bibs. Over 2,500 of these have been given out over the years.

The Foundation also funds a counsellor to visit the unit and covers the annual fee for an app, which enables staff to send parents secure videos and photographs of their baby when they can't be with them.

All staff working on the unit benefit from a copy of the book Pocket Neonatology, a subscription to a Neonatal Journal and funding to attend various annual conferences, as well as additional training when required.



Over the years, the charity has also made significant one-off contributions, and these include nursing chairs, breast pumps, a digital camera for staff to take photos of babies for their families, cool bags and ice blocks for expressing mums to transport milk, and a trial of donor breast milk in 2013. This trial led to the hospital becoming a hub for donor milk in December 2021, which means they store and provide much-needed milk to other hospitals in the local area.

The donations don't just stop there, with Clare visiting the unit once a week for her 'Cake and Chat' sessions, where she provides a listening ear to parents of babies on the unit.

Fundraising for the charity is done purely through the goodwill of friends, family as well as significant donations from businesses. Activities that have taken place to date include an annual curry night and race night, the London Marathon, Scotland Coast to Coast and the Great North Run.

The amount of support given to the unit by the Emily Harris Foundation over the years is truly amazing and we are so thankful for everything that Clare and Neil do.

The money they raise really does make a difference to parents, neonates and staff and we are all incredibly grateful for all that they do for the Trust and the families we serve.

**Engagements and visits over the past month including:**

- Attending the Robotic Surgery showcase organised by our consultant William Dudill and his team to promote this advanced piece of kit and show how this might help our patients and staff.
- Meeting with governors to understand the issues raised through Meet The Governor sessions with patients and public
- Taking part in recruitment panels
- Meeting with colleagues in the ICS
- Discussions with staff and our EDI network leaders.