

**Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet**

<b>Subject:</b>	Chair's Report		3 February 2022	
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Marcus Duffield, Associate Director of Communications			
<b>Approved By:</b>	Claire Ward, Chair, Marcus Duffield			
<b>Presented By:</b>	Claire Ward, Chair			
<b>Purpose</b>				
To update on key events and information from the last month.			<b>Approval</b>	
			<b>Assurance</b>	X
			<b>Update</b>	
			<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>Overall Level of Assurance</b>				
	<b>Significant</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>None</b>
			X	
<b>Risks/Issues</b>				
<b>Financial</b>				
<b>Patient Impact</b>				
<b>Staff Impact</b>				
<b>Services</b>				
<b>Reputational</b>				
<b>Committees/groups where this item has been presented before</b>				
N/a				
<b>Executive Summary</b>				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective.				

## **Chair's report: February 2022**

### **Covid-19 update: Admissions easing but community infection rates remain high so we must remain vigilant and protect each other**

On behalf of our patients across Newark and Sherwood, Mansfield and Ashfield, I would like to start by thanking everyone at Sherwood Forest Hospitals for their continued dedication and compassion in the face of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic.

In particular, the way they are meeting the challenges presented by the most recent Omicron wave – by increasing our bed capacity and developing new ways of working to keep our patients and each other safe.

Our strategy and planning for the Omicron variant is covered elsewhere on today's agenda, detailing our robust plans to create extra capacity and increase discharges.

Implementing and maintaining extra capacity (particularly at a time when high infection rates in the community meant our own workforce absence was rising) is testament to the commitment and dedication of colleagues across #TeamSFH and our partner organisations.

As restrictions in the wider community ease, it is important the public are aware that infection prevention and control measures remain in place and are unchanged throughout our hospitals and other healthcare settings.

Everyone coming on to our sites must wear a mask (unless they are medically exempt) wash their hands regularly and observe social distancing. If you can, please take a Covid test before coming into our hospitals and please come unaccompanied to appointments unless you need a carer, are under-18, or you are pregnant (a named birthing partner). In these cases, patients can bring one person with them to hospital.

Infection rates in the community are still high and our hospitals remain very busy so it is vital we continue to do everything we can to protect all our patients and our staff.

### **A remarkable birthday milestone for Ann**

We reached a remarkable personal milestone for one member of #TeamSFH in January when Ann Seymour in our Clinical Illustration team celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Ann has worked locally for the NHS locally for more than 45 years, including at Mansfield General Hospital, and her Clinical Illustration colleagues can't speak of her highly enough – popular throughout the Trust... warm-natured... kind, caring and compassionate.

Thank you Ann for your continued dedication to #TeamSFH and many happy returns.

### **Well done to our Proud2bOps team for prestigious nomination**

Congratulations to our Proud2bOps team who have been [shortlisted as finalists in the Workforce and Wellbeing Initiative of the Year in the prestigious HSJ Partnership Awards 2022](#). This recognises their outstanding contribution to healthcare – in what has been an exceptional and challenging period.

Proud2bOps has been selected based on their ambition, visionary spirit, and the demonstrable positive impact that it has had on patient and staff experiences within the health and social care sector.

Proud2bOps is a community of operational managers and leaders, providing a platform for ideas, discussion and personal and professional development. With more than 750 members across the country, it was formed and is chaired by Sherwood Forest's Executive Director of Culture and Improvement, Emma Challans.

The overall winner will be announced on March 24.

### **Recruitment process begins for #TeamSFH CEO**

We have started the process of recruiting a Chief Executive and I am confident we will attract a lot of interest. #TeamSFH is a great place to work and a provider of excellent care, which is down to the compassion and dedication of colleagues across the Trust.

We expect interviews to take place at the beginning of March and as soon as I am able, I will communicate the outcome of the process.

### **Consultant appointment**

I'd like to welcome Anneka Solomonsz as Acting Consultant in Geriatrics.

### **Chair activities**

This month I have been having meetings with other Chairs across the Nottinghamshire system as we continue to develop our approach to working together in advance of the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership being formally established later in the summer.

I also met with Sherwood Forest Education Partnership, the Principal of ATTFE college and Connected Nottinghamshire to explore how we can involve more of our community, especially younger people, in promoting and supporting the expansion of digital access to healthcare. As we continue to develop our digital access to health and the opportunities it can bring to tackle health inequalities, it's important that no one is left behind. We are keen to promote more "digital champions" throughout our communities.

### **Membership summary**

Opportunities for Governors to engage with patients and the public have been limited since tighter Covid-19 restrictions were re-introduced due to the Omicron variant.

As part of wider engagement and through the Mid-Nottinghamshire Place-based Partnership, our Chair of Governors Sue Holmes has been leading efforts to establish more links with community groups with a focus on Priority Places (areas of high deprivation and traditionally low engagement with NHS and social care services).

Starting with the Bellamy Road Estate in Mansfield, this work will help us to better understand these communities' needs and reduce barriers to accessing our services – helping us to deliver outstanding care and, ultimately, leading to healthier communities.

Our public membership total currently stands at 14,603.