

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

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

Chief Executive's Report – February 2022

Covid-19 update

The way colleagues across Sherwood Forest have responded to the latest wave of Covid-19 infections has been remarkable.

We should also remember that it coincided with the expected rise in winter demand and we are proud of the way #TeamSFH continues to meet both these challenges.

The way we met the challenge of the Omicron variant is covered in more detail elsewhere on the agenda of today's meeting but in brief:

- Following a rise in admissions numbers levelled off and there are signs that the situation has stabilised
- Thankfully, the number of most seriously ill – those needing mechanical ventilation and intensive care – did not increase to previous levels
- We remain extremely busy, however, and must remain vigilant. Although the Government's Plan B restrictions and guidance have been lifted, restrictions at our sites - King's Mill Hospital, Newark Hospital and Mansfield Community Hospital – remain in force to keep our patients and staff safe
- While we have had to stand down some outpatient appointments, allowing us to redeploy staff to critical areas, we have, so far, managed to maintain much of our planned surgery
- We are also achieving some of the best ambulance turnaround times in the region.

Welcome support from the military

During January we welcomed ten members of the Armed Forces to #TeamSFH to support our pandemic response, supporting a range of non-clinical roles. We were pleased to welcome them to our Trust and are grateful for their valuable support.

Covid-19 vaccinations

SFH continues to play a leading role in the vaccination roll-out and the Vaccination Hub at King's Mill Hospital has now delivered around 200,000 doses.

We continue to promote the Covid-19 vaccine to eligible members of the public and our colleagues the benefits of the taking up both doses and the booster jab. It is the best way to guard against becoming seriously ill with the virus.

From April 1 it will be a legal condition of deployment for colleagues with patient contact roles to be double vaccinated. To comply with this new legislation those affected will need to have had their first vaccine by today (February 3, 2022). We continue to have one-to-one conversations and offer support to colleagues to understand any hesitancy they may have.

Communications toolkits for staff and managers have been developed by SFH and are being adopted across the Nottinghamshire health system to support consistent messaging.

Reducing footfall at our hospitals

Although Plan B Covid-19 and other restrictions are no longer in place, infection prevention and control measures in our hospitals have not been eased. This is vitally important if we are to protect our most vulnerable patients. This includes [continuing to limit visiting \(with exceptions\)](#); asking outpatients to come alone, if possible; and continuing to ask everyone in our hospitals to wear a mask, wash their hands and observe social distancing. Full details are available on the Sherwood Forest website [Patients and Visitors page](#).

Supporting colleagues' health and wellbeing

On January 11, Government advice changed meaning PCR tests were no longer necessary following a positive lateral flow test, however, we continued to support colleagues who have a positive lateral flow test by offering a confirmatory PCR test.

Protecting frontline staff remains a key priority and we continue to provide training sessions and extra testers are visiting clinical areas to ensure PPE is correctly fitted and worn.

We know after almost two years of the pandemic that many of our staff are tired so we continue to develop our [Boost wellbeing package](#) to support colleagues' mental and physical health and during January we strengthened this with appointments to two new posts – Sarah Toft is our new Lead Clinical Psychologist and Amy Gouldstone our People Wellbeing Lead.

Through Trust-wide communication channels and face-to-face discussions, we have also worked hard to ensure staff have the confidence to speak to our [Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Kerry Bosworth](#) and #TeamSFH's [Freedom to Speak Up Champions](#) should they wish to raise issues while working in fast-changing and sometimes challenging environments.

Chief Nurse

Our Chief Nurse Julie Hogg has been appointed as Chief Nurse at University Hospitals Leicester. She will take up her new role in the coming months and we are now beginning the process of recruiting a substantive replacement.