

Council of Governors Meeting - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chief Executive's Report	Date: February 2022		
Prepared By:	Marcus Duffield, Associate Director of Communications			
Approved By:	Paul Robinson, Chief Executive			
Presented By:	Dave Selwyn, Medical Director			
Purpose				
To update on key events and information from the last month			Approval	
			Assurance	X
			Update	
			Consider	
Strategic Objectives				
To provide outstanding	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				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items from the Chief Executive's perspective.				

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.

Through our Covid-19 Incident Control Team we are providing assurance to the board that we:

- Ensure the successful ramp-up of the vital COVID-19 vaccine programme

- Maximise the availability of COVID-19 treatments for patients at highest risk of severe disease and hospitalisation
- Maximise capacity across acute and community settings, enabling the maximum number of people to be discharged safely and quickly and supporting people in their own homes
- Support patient safety in urgent care pathways across all services, and manage elective care, including a focus on ambulance response times and community crisis response
- Effectively manage critical care, elective care and cancer care
- Support staff and our volunteers to stay well and at work
- Support workforce planning, flexibility and training
- Ensure surge plans and processes are ready to be implemented if needed
- Maintain supplies, including PPE and oxygen
- Maintain effective infection prevention and control.

In brief, the current situation is as follows:

- Following a rise in admissions numbers levelled off and there are signs that the situation has stabilised
- Thankfully, the number of most seriously ill patients – 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 benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine and the booster jab to eligible members of the public and our colleagues at #TeamSFH. The implications of recent changes in Government policy, indicating that it is no longer a requirement for NHS frontline staff to be fully vaccinated are being worked through and we are keeping all colleagues informed and offering support where needed.

Our advice remains in place, however, that getting vaccinated and having the booster dose is the best way to guard against becoming seriously ill with the virus.

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.

#TeamSFH launches its Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals Pathway to Excellence

We have now started our Pathway to Excellence journey for our nurses, midwives and AHPs. This is an internationally recognised accreditation process and over the coming months we will be talking more about how we will be showcasing excellence and outstanding care in six key areas:

- Shared decision making
- Leadership
- Safety
- Quality
- Wellbeing
- Professional development.

Leads have been identified for each standard, and they are working with nursing, midwifery and allied healthcare professional colleagues to collate evidence of work being done in these areas.

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.