

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chief Executive's Report		Date: 5 th May 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				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chief Executive's perspective.				

High demand for services

Demand on our services remains high even though the winter period, when we would expect to be busier than usual, has now ended.

High attendances to Urgent and Emergency Care, the number of patients who were having to wait to be admitted to our wards and difficulties discharging medically-fit patients prompted us to declare a critical incident on April 12.

The response from teams across all our sites was remarkable and made a significant difference to our flow and available capacity and our position had improved enough to close the incident by April 14.

Urgent actions included:

- Pausing a small number of non-urgent operations where this frees up a bed for another patient
- Stepping down non-essential activity to free up colleagues to work in in-patient areas
- Working to set up a further facility, Sherwood Forest Community Unit, to create extra capacity for medically fit patients
- Providing a tracking service to allow additional opportunities offered by virtual ward or allowing diagnostic tests to happen rapidly, despite patient discharge
- Ensuring daily Executive oversight of medically fit patients for discharge.

I would like to thank every member of #TeamSFH for the way they rose to the challenges we faced throughout April and for their continuing hard work and dedication to delivering the best care and services to our patients and their families.

Covid-19 update

Covid-19 remains with us. Although continuing to decline (more details will be given elsewhere in this meeting), Covid-positive patients continue to be admitted and staff absence remains higher than we would expect due to high rates in the community.

We have, however, been able to further ease visiting restrictions across all our sites and full details are on the Sherwood Forest Hospitals website page [For Patients and Visitors](#).

Face coverings must continue to be worn in all healthcare settings, unless patients are exempt. Patients and visitors are asked not to attend if they have Covid-19 symptoms.

Meanwhile our Vaccination Hub at King's Mill has moved to a more permanent home in the block known as TB3 after taking over the Conference Centre at the start of the roll-out programme.

This means our Occupational Health team has moved to Byron House and the Training, Education and Development team can finally return to their permanent home. Thanks to all for showing patience and understanding in these sometimes challenging circumstances.

EPMA goes live

Following a successful pilot scheme on Woodland Ward at King's Mill, I am delighted to report that our patients have started to get their medicines prescribed electronically in a major step towards full digitisation and more effective, efficient and safer care.

The full roll-out of our Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPMA) system began at Newark Hospital's Sconce Ward and continued with the Medicine Division at King's Mill.

This is an exciting development and an important step in our journey to a smarter more electronic hospital and full digitisation. It will allow us to review medication remotely, communicate more easily between departments and allow us to analyse prescribing trends and increase sharing of data between different disciplines.

Free staff parking extended until the autumn

Financial support from the Government allowing us to provide free on-site parking for colleagues ended on April 1.

Free staff parking was one of the measures introduced early in the Covid-19 pandemic, recognising the contribution and sacrifices NHS workers were making in unprecedented and challenging circumstances.

It was, however, always a temporary measure and two years on, central funding has now ended.

Discussing this with my fellow directors, it did not feel right to re-introduce charges at such short notice and we decided that free parking will continue and will be reviewed in the autumn.

Eventually, however, we will need to bring back charges and I am committed to working with staff to make sure we offer the best service and value.

Government guidance suggests we prioritise those in greatest need – patients and visitors, as well as colleagues. This means free parking is likely to remain for the disabled, frequent visitors (such as patients with long-term and serious conditions) and staff working night shifts.

Over the next few months, we have the chance to informally seek views of our staff and collect ideas about how we might reintroduce charges as equitably as possible. I can't guarantee we will please everyone and ultimately many of us will need to resume paying if we are to continue driving to work but this gives us an opportunity to talk about the fairest ways it might be done.

Risk ratings reviewed

There have been no changes to the Risk Committee's ratings for Principal Risk 6 (Working more closely with local health and care partners does not fully deliver the required benefits), Principal Risk 7 (A major disruptive incident). and Principal Risk 8 (Failure to deliver sustainable reductions in the Trust's impact on climate change).