

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chair's report		Date: 7 July 2022	
Prepared By:	Rich Brown, Head of Communications			
Approved By:	Claire Ward, Chair			
Presented By:	Claire Ward, Chair			
Purpose				
To update on key events and information from the last month.			Approval	
			Assurance	X
			Update	X
			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				
Not applicable.				
Executive Summary				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective.				

Engagement sessions with new governors

I have been out-and-about across our hospitals this month meeting staff, patients, volunteers and our recently elected trust governors – as we are now able to visit more areas following changes to our IPC (infection prevention and control) measures which has followed the national guidance to return to closer to pre-pandemic policies where appropriate to do so. As we return to mask-wearing due to the rise in COVID cases, we will continue to visit staff and patients and recognise the ongoing challenges they face in this environment but, as always, we will put the safety of our patients and staff first.

I have held a number of meetings with elected and appointed governors, too. They play a vital part in representing the views of the communities we serve and thousands of members of the trust, particularly in considering how we can further improve our services. We receive good feedback from governors as they are connected to many parts of our local community

As an extension of that activity, we have been delighted to re-launch our ‘meet your governor’ engagement sessions at our King’s Mill and Newark Hospitals which have been well-attended by staff, volunteers, patients and visitors alike. We will work through the feedback received and consider how best to act upon that to further improve our services.

This month has also seen the return of our ‘15 steps’ engagements for the first time since the start of the pandemic, where this month I have had the pleasure of visiting Ward 24. These sessions invite the trust’s governors and non-executive directors to visit services across our hospitals with a member of the trust’s executive team to show support for our hard-working staff and volunteers and see for ourselves how they are continuing to manage current pressures which remain high but well-managed across our hospitals. The sessions are also a great opportunity to identify areas for improvement and consider how we can better support staff and volunteers.

I look forward to continuing those engagements throughout the summer and I thank everyone within the trust who has been so welcoming and helped to make those engagements happen.

Other visits undertaken this month

Other areas of our hospitals that I have visited with colleagues in the past month include Radiology, Emergency Department, the Discharge Lounge, Ward 36, the Flow meetings and maternity. All of these were an opportunity to see at first-hand the service we provide to patients and talk to staff.

I know that many of these departments and services are under sustained pressure and I am grateful for the time to hear from staff about the challenges they face and where we can provide greater assistance and support.

Community donations in the past month

In the past month, I have also been struck by the number of donations that continue to be made to the trust in support of its work – a trend which is all the more heart-warming given that it has been sustained throughout the pandemic and during the tough financial times we are all living in.

In June 2022 alone, we have received a number of donations from generous members of the public that will help the trust to fund a wide range of improvements for the benefit of patients, staff and visitors across our hospitals.

I have written personal ‘thank you’ letters to each and every person who has made a donation this month and I would like to place on-record my thanks for the continued generosity of all those who continue to make such generous donations to the trust’s charity and its fundraising partners. Their generosity is very much appreciated.

Changes in key staff positions

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of a number of key staff who the trust bid a fond farewell to this month. I send my thanks to Dale Travis, our former Head of Operations; our Chief Pharmacist, Steve May, who retires after 20 years with the trust; and Marcus Duffield, our interim Associate Director of Communications, who moves on following a successful second stint with the trust having been brought back to rebuild our communications team.

Their efforts have made significant contributions to making Sherwood Forest Hospitals the place it is to work and receive treatment today and I wish them every success and happiness in all that they have planned for the future.

I would also like to formally welcome David Ainsworth into post as the trust’s first-ever Director of Strategy and Partnerships – a role that will be key in developing how the trust works with partners across the newly-formed Integrated Care Board, which came into effect on 1 July 2022.

This month, we also look forward to [welcoming Rachel Eddie as the trust's new Chief Operating Officer](#) at the end of July.

Membership summary

We continue to work to improve membership from under-represented groups, particularly the under-50s, men and people from ethnic minorities. It is vitally important that we hear the voices from every part of our community and are doing some exciting work with local schools and colleges to raise our profile and increase representation from younger people.

Our public membership total currently stands at 14,194.