

## Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

<b>Subject:</b>	Chair's report	<b>Date:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Rich Brown, Head of Communications			
<b>Approved By:</b>	Claire Ward, Chair			
<b>Presented By:</b>	Claire Ward, Chair			
<b>Purpose</b>				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective.			<b>Approval</b>	
			<b>Assurance</b>	X
			<b>Update</b>	X
			<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>Identify which principal risk this report relates to:</b>				
PR1	Significant deterioration in standards of safety and care			
PR2	Demand that overwhelms capacity			
PR3	Critical shortage of workforce capacity and capability			
PR4	Failure to achieve the Trust's financial strategy			
PR5	Inability to initiate and implement evidence-based Improvement and innovation			
PR6	Working more closely with local health and care partners does not fully deliver the required benefits			
PR7	Major disruptive incident			
PR8	Failure to deliver sustainable reductions in the Trust's impact on climate change			
<b>Committees/groups where this item has been presented before</b>				
Not applicable				
<b>Executive Summary</b>				
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective.				

## Presenting the Chair's *Excellence Award* to our Sherwood Community Unit



I was delighted to join our Chief Nurse, Phil Bolton, to [present a Trust \*Excellence Award\* to the team behind our Sherwood Community Unit – a former care home in Mansfield Woodhouse that we have converted into a hospital ward to care for patients who are waiting to be discharged from our hospitals.](#)

Sherwood Community Unit opened in May 2022 to help free-up hospital beds for those who need them most within our existing wards at the Trust's King's Mill, Newark and Mansfield Community Hospitals.

Since welcoming its first patient in early May 2022, the 19-bedded Unit has gone on to care for over 400 patients in that six-month period. The Unit has been opened as a temporary measure but is now expected to remain open throughout this winter, with its longer-term future still to be decided.

NHS services remain really busy across the country and our hardworking NHS staff and volunteers are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to help manage those pressures and provide the best possible care to patients.

Our Community Unit is a great example of how we're thinking differently to ensure patients can receive the best possible healthcare in the right place, while keeping our essential NHS services running.

The Unit was one of 18 winners announced at Sherwood Forest Hospitals' annual *Excellence Awards* in October to celebrate Trust staff, volunteers and its community partners who have gone above-and-beyond expectations for the patients we serve.

Thank you once to the team for their excellent work in setting up the Community Unit.

### **Continuing to ensure Sherwood's voice is heard as the ICB defines its longer-term strategy**

Since the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB formed in July 2022, I – along with our Chief Executive, Paul Robinson – have been keen to ensure that the voice of Sherwood Forest Hospitals, its staff and its patients are heard at every opportunity.

That has been true throughout the regular meetings that Paul and I have with the Chair and Chief Executive of the ICB, as well as through more structured engagement – like the work that is currently ongoing across the ICB to define its longer-term strategy to shape the future of how health and care services are provided across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

We will continue to engage in the formation of that strategy and I look forward to bringing further updates to the Board about the progress of that work in future meetings.

### **Preparing for next year's Council of Governor elections**

In April 2023, the Trust will be opening polls once again to elect governors to five vacancies we currently have on our Council of Governors.

The role of a governor within a Foundation Trust like ours is an essential part of ensuring that our hospitals are as responsive as they can be to the needs of our local community – including by offering actionable feedback to the Trust and our colleagues.

Early in 2023, we will be sharing details of how anyone interested in becoming a governor of the Trust can do so ahead of the next election for our Council of Governors, with [more general information about how to become a governor available on our Trust website](#).

I would encourage anyone interested in becoming a Trust governor to check out the information on our website or to reach out to me direct to discuss those vacancies and the exciting opportunities they could lead to.

### **Engagements and visits over the past month: Visiting our Maternity department**

In my role as Chair and also the Trust's Non-Executive Maternity Safety Champion, I am privileged to undertake a monthly walkaround of our Maternity pathway to learn about the latest developments in the service.

On our monthly walkaround this month, I was delighted to be joined by Rosa Waddingham – Chief Nurse for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) – who accompanied me to learn about the great work going on here at Sherwood.

The visit was an excellent opportunity for us to see first-hand some of the latest developments across our Maternity services over recent months – including [the launch of new digital maternity notes for expectant families](#) and [the opening of our new feeding pod at King's Mill Hospital](#).

That visit was followed in quick succession by the arrival of inspectors from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), who visited the Trust as part of their national review of all maternity services.

Their visit forms part of an ongoing programme of planned visits across the country which are aiming to provide an up-to-date view of the quality of hospital maternity care across the country – as well as a better understanding of what is working well to support learning and further improvements nationwide.

We are awaiting the outcome of that inspection, which I look forward to being able to share with the Board at future meetings.

### **Engagements and visits over the past month: Visiting Newark Hospital**

In one of my many other visits to teams across the Trust, it was my pleasure to visit Newark Hospital for a walkaround during the month to learn more about the work going on within the Trust.

During my visit, I spent time on Castle Ward learning about the work that's happening there to welcome inpatients from our other sites to free-up acute beds where they are needed most.

I also visited the Urgent Treatment Centres (UTC) to learn more about how they help to treat patients who need urgent medical attention when it's not a life-threatening situation, as well as hearing from a host of other teams about how they are bringing to life the Trust's vision to maximise the potential of Newark Hospital and make it a vibrant and valued asset for the local community.