Chief Executive's Report to Board, April 2017

Top rating for SFH's stroke service

Our stroke service has been given an A rating by the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) for the way it handles patients suspected of having a stroke. This means the team, comprising stroke consultants, thrombolysis nurses, stroke nurse specialists, ward nurses, ward doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, clinical psychologists, members of the discharge team and dieticians, are among the best in the country when it comes to assessing potential stroke patients and ensuring they receive swift and appropriate treatment and follow-on therapy. SSNAP collects data from almost 200 hospitals across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to support the best possible standards in stroke care. SFH first signed up to the programme in 2012.

Spreading the word about SFH's recruitment campaign

A key part of our drive towards providing outstanding care is recruiting permanent staff to reduce our reliance on agency nurses. We currently have 140 vacancies for band 5 nurses and earlier this month a major campaign was launched with the unveiling of a dedicated recruitment website and a focus on how proud existing staff are about working here.

As well as a strong response to social media output – with our own staff helping to spread the work – the campaign has received prominent coverage from BBC East Midland's health correspondent Rob Sissons over the Easter weekend and print and online coverage from the Mansfield Chad, the Nottingham Post and other outlets.

A series of assessment days are scheduled whereby candidates can complete an interview / assessment and (if successful) receive an offer of a job on the same day. A similar day held over Easter at Newark resulted in job offers to four qualified nurses.

New face at Newark

I would also like to welcome Anthony Rosevear as our new Assistant Chief Operating Officer. Anthony will be based at Newark Hospital and joins the Trust from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, where he was Divisional General Manager. He has also managed cancer and orthopaedic services at neighbouring Trusts in the past and has a clinical background in physiotherapy.

Sherwood Forest a finalist for more awards

The Trust has been shortlisted for even more awards over the past month, including the Healthcare People Management (HPMA) Excellence Awards for our health and wellbeing strategy (winner to be announced June 22) and the NHS Sustainability Awards for Waste Management (winner to be announced May 17). This follows shortlistings for two Patient Safety Congress Awards – one for the work that we have done to improve safety around sepsis and one for the improvements that have been made to reduce and manage infection, particularly C. difficile (winner to be announced July 4). This follows teams from the Trust being named earlier this year as finalists in three categories of the Health Service Journal's Value in Healthcare Awards (winners revealed on May 24).