

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Chair's Report	7 May 2020		
Prepared By:	Robin Smith, Acting Head of Communications			
Approved By:	John MacDonald, Chair			
Presented By:	John MacDonald, Chair			
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				
<p>An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Chair's perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 • CQC Assessment • Visits to Trust Teams and External Meetings • Membership summary 				

Chair's Report – May 2020

Covid-19

Richard Mitchell will detail the operational response to Covid-19 in more detail in his written and verbal updates, but I want to recognise the immense dedication and compassion shown from all our colleagues in handling this unprecedented incident.

Sadly we have seen a number of deaths at Sherwood, and our thoughts are with all of those who have lost loved ones.

I am very invested in what we do next as Trust and system to learn the lessons from some of the things that we have implemented at pace, and how we can capture that to shape future services and plan healthcare provision.

CQC update

We are looking forward to seeing the final report from the CQC after their assessment of some of our services earlier this year, we hope the report will be published at some point in May. Thank you to all colleagues involved, and to the CQC for their commitment and engagement through this process.

Councillor Anthony Brewer

Amongst the sad deaths in our hospital, I want to pay tribute to Councillor Anthony Brewer (Tony) who was a long-serving and very popular volunteer at King's Mill Hospital as well as being Chair at Ashfield District Council.

We were deeply saddened to hear of Councillor Anthony Brewer's death and our thoughts and condolences are with his family, loved ones and friends.

Anthony was not only a fellow Chairman, but he was an active member of the Sherwood Forest Hospitals community, having been an active volunteer at our Welcome Treatment Centre at King's Mill Hospital for many years. He served refreshments to patients whilst they were receiving their treatment for cancer, a cause which was very close to his heart. He will be remembered by us for his kindness and generosity in this role and will be greatly missed.

There are a number of other news stories related to Coronavirus that we have shared within the organisation and beyond this month. Including:

Local Mum's plea to still use hospital services if your loved one is unwell

Sherwood Forest Hospitals is highlighting the importance of still using our emergency services as usual if you or a loved one is unwell.

We know that during these unprecedented times it can be really daunting for people, but please bring your loved ones who are unwell to use as soon as possible or dial 999.

A Mum from Mansfield, who had to bring her daughter in to Sherwood Forest Hospitals Emergency Department recently, is keen to get the message out there and let everyone know about the importance of acting quickly and taking your loved ones to hospital if you need to.

Terri Walker from Mansfield delayed bringing her 8 year old daughter Lilly to Sherwood Forest Hospitals Emergency Department, as she was so concerned about Coronavirus and the effects it is having on hospital services. However, she did the right thing and brought her daughter in following the advice from her GP, Terri said: “Lilly had been really tired and lethargic and really just not herself for a couple of days, but I was worried about bothering the health services at this time, normally I would have taken her straight to her GP, but it was the Easter bank holiday weekend and I didn’t know if they were open, so we were really unsure of what to do. We rang 111 but she didn’t have a temperature and because her only symptoms at the time were that she was just tired, they were not concerned at this stage. Even we thought it might just be the stresses and changes due to the lock down situation.

“Eventually though as time went on and she wasn’t getting better we got an appointment with her GP from Millview Surgery, who gave us brilliant advice and we brought her straight in as we just knew she wasn’t right, under normal circumstances I would have definitely brought her in sooner. I was expecting a really panicked and overrun Emergency Department, but it was so calm and organised and everyone was brilliant and worked so quickly on Lilly. She was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and was extremely dehydrated, so they took her through to resus really quickly.

“It was a really scary time, but I can’t thank the doctors and nurses enough who worked on Lilly and made her better so quickly and I really would like to urge fellow parents to act quickly if their child is sick and not to delay, as hospitals are still open to care for other people who don’t have coronavirus.”

Consultant Paediatrician and Service Director for Paediatrics, Helena Clements said: “We would urge parents to seek medical advice as soon as possible if they are concerned about their child, as you will be treated as a priority as is usual under normal circumstances. GP practices are open as normal and can see patients face to face after a telephone triage. If your child seems extremely unwell we would urge you to bring them to our Emergency Department or dial 999, as all services are operating as normal.”

NHS Employee thanks staff at hospital Trust for saving her life

A colleague from Sherwood Forest Hospitals is thanking the Trust after receiving care that has helped her survive Coronavirus.

Karen Stevenson, 43, from Mansfield, who is an Administrator in Radiology at SFH, came into the Trust with suspected Coronavirus on 27 March 2020. She said: “I had been unwell for a few days at home and hadn’t been able to get out of bed. I had a fever, tight chest and shortness of breath, so I knew I wasn’t right.”

As time went on, on 27 March she asked her husband to call an ambulance as she woke with a fever and struggling to breathe, she said: “I can remember going to the Emergency Department and to x-ray, but I can’t remember going to the ward prior to intensive care. My next memory is being told that I would be sedated and ventilated. I called my husband and made arrangements with him in case I didn’t make it through.”

Karen was cared for on King’s Mill Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit and can remember waking up on ICU. Karen said: “The care and compassion was exceptional, but I remember little else during this time, it’s all such a blur.”

After 16 days on ICU, Karen was then moved to Ward 43, which is the ward being used to care for patients with Covid-19. She added: “I can remember going onto the ward and I was still on a high dose of oxygen, I was very weak and unable to raise my arms, I was pretty much bed ridden and unable to swallow normal foods and fluids, so I needed a different diet.”

Reflecting on her time in hospital she said: “The care has been exceptional, all staff from nurses, doctors, carers, therapists and everyone else have been so caring and compassionate. From ED to ICU to ward 43.

“I’m so excited to be going home, I haven’t seen my family for nearly a month and I can’t wait to see my children and husband.

“Being an employee of the Trust and seeing the teams in action makes me so proud of the care delivered by SFH staff and I am immensely proud to be part of that team, delivering care in a kind and compassionate way, with humour and with a smile. It was the little things that I appreciated so much, for instance when I couldn’t lift my arms, nurses came and helped me with my phone so that I could see and speak to my family, I mean, you can’t get better care and compassion than that can you! A nurse on ICU also offered my husband some invaluable advice about keeping a diary every day whilst I have been in hospital, so that they can update me on everything. I think that has helped both them and me and was such a fantastic suggestion.

“Although it’s been difficult for me to not see my family and not being able to physically see each other, the Trust has done a fantastic job of keeping them all informed on updated on my progress. Thank you for all the care and compassion given to me and getting me through this difficult time.”

Charge Nurse on Ward 43, Justin Wyatt who has been helping to care for Karen said: “It’s so tough when you see patients struggling and unable to see their families at this worrying time, but I am so pleased that our teams have been able to ensure that Karen still got to see and talk to her family over the phone. We do everything we can to make our patients comfortable and to make sure that they don’t feel isolated whilst on the wards. We already have a family atmosphere on the ward as we all look after each other, so I hope that that is coming across to patients too. We wish Karen and her family all the best in her recovery and look forward to seeing her again at work once she is fit, well and fully recovered.”

Trust says thank you in response to recruitment drive

Sherwood Forest Hospitals is saying thank you after seeing a huge rise in recruitment to the bank staff list to help with the coronavirus outbreak.

Since 17 March the Trust has successfully recruited 246 workers to the bank staff team, which is used when areas of the hospitals require extra staffing. The extra recruits include 41 registered nurses and 189 Health Care Assistants.

In addition the Trust has seen 12 staff return through the bring back staff project and 15 medical students have joined the Trust as Health Care Assistants.

Head of Rostering Services for Sherwood Forest Hospitals, Donna Mariner said: “It has been brilliant to see so much interest in working for us. We can’t thank people enough for coming forward and helping us during this time. I’d like to reassure people that they will get a full induction, which will be carried out whilst maintaining social distancing, and full training and support will be provided for those who need it. All clinical staff have been brilliant at welcoming new members of staff into their teams and everyone has pulled together to look after each other, which has been brilliant to see.”

Sherwood Forest Hospitals sets up wellbeing rooms for staff

In a bid to help staff who may be feeling overwhelmed, Sherwood Forest Hospitals has set up specific rooms known as 'safe spaces' for colleagues to go and take a few minutes of calm and reflection in.

The rooms include relaxing chairs, mood lighting and have the ability to play music in them. It is hoped that they will offer a short escape for staff who may need to take a short break or period of relaxation time to help deal with the current coronavirus outbreak.

Matron on ICU, Christian Brailsford said: "I think creating a safe space for colleagues is a great idea, the one that we have set up in Critical Care is brilliant. Sometimes you just need a quick five minutes or so, just to step out of the situation you are in and have some time to just reflect and think. It is so important that we look after our mental health and wellbeing during these testing times and I will certainly be encouraging my teams to use the room as and when they can."

Safe spaces have been set up across the hospital in a bid to ensure that staff can have these much needed time out areas. An 'SFH Wellbeing Den' has also been set up at King's Mill Hospital and Newark Hospital, where colleagues can go, whilst maintaining social distancing, for some help or advice on mental health and wellbeing. It is a space where staff can get any information they need or just take a moment out to talk to someone and relax.

Director of Culture and Improvement, Emma Challans added: "We know how important it is, especially at the moment, to ensure that everyone is thinking about their mental health and wellbeing. We know that the situation may be overwhelming for some colleagues and we are doing all we can to support them during this time. We are also doing weekly health and wellbeing videos that colleagues can access remotely to ensure that everyone feels supported and is thinking about their own self-care. I think it helps to just stop and check in with yourself, reflect and make sure you are ok. Many people just carry on and we hope that the support available is helping people to just have that time to think about themselves and their colleagues and know that they have that support if they need it."

Visits to Trust Teams and External Meetings

I am continuing to meet internally and externally, wherever possible virtually and have attended a number of meetings including:

- Healthwatch update
- Meeting with Chairs of NUH and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Meeting with Midlands Provider and CCG Chairs and CEOs on Covid-19
- Fortnightly Board catch-ups
- Regular catch-ups and one-to-ones

Membership summary

The Forum for Public Involvement group meeting have been paused, but we have plans for a virtual meeting instead. We have also paused the Meet your Governor sessions at this time.

Membership numbers

Number of public members: 15,453

Number of staff members: 6,220

Total: 21,673