

**Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet**

<b>Subject:</b>	Acting Chair's report				<b>Date:</b>	30 January 2025
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Rich Brown, Head of Communication					
<b>Approved By:</b>	Graham Ward, Acting Chair					
<b>Presented By:</b>	Graham Ward, Acting Chair					
<b>Purpose</b>						
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Acting Chair's perspective.					<b>Approval</b>	
					<b>Assurance</b>	
					<b>Update</b>	Y
					<b>Consider</b>	Y
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>						
Provide outstanding care in the best place at the right time	Empower and support our people to be the best they can be	Improve health and wellbeing within our communities	Continuously learn and improve	Sustainable use of resources and estates	Work collaboratively with partners in the community	
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
<b>Principal Risk</b>						
<b>PR1</b> Significant deterioration in standards of safety and care						
<b>PR2</b> Demand that overwhelms capacity						
<b>PR3</b> Critical shortage of workforce capacity and capability						
<b>PR4</b> Insufficient financial resources available to support the delivery of services						
<b>PR5</b> Inability to initiate and implement evidence-based Improvement and innovation						
<b>PR6</b> Working more closely with local health and care partners does not fully deliver the required benefits						
<b>PR7</b> Major disruptive incident						
<b>PR8</b> Failure to deliver sustainable reductions in the Trust's impact on climate change						
<b>Committees/groups where this item has been presented before</b>						
None						
<b>Acronyms</b>						
ATTFE = Academy Transformation Trust Further Education FPPT = Fit & Proper Persons Tests NED = Non-Executive Director						
<b>Executive Summary</b>						
An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items over the past month from the Acting Chair's perspective.						

## Passing of Trust governor John Wood

Everyone at Sherwood was saddened to learn of the recent passing of one of the Trust's public governors, John Wood.

John, who lived in Mansfield all his life and had four grown-up children, had served on the Trust's Council of Governors since 2016 where he had been a key part of the Trust's work to engage the Trust's thousands of public members in helping to shape the services of their local hospitals. Over the years, John had also served as a school governor locally, as well as being involved in a number of local charities, committees and fundraising activities.

John passed away on Tuesday 31 December 2024 surrounded by his family.

Everyone at the Trust who knew John has such fond memories of him as someone who was always a great source of knowledge and advice in how he represented our Trust members over the years and I personally especially enjoyed our conversations during 15 steps visits to different areas across the Trust.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him and our thoughts remain with his friends, family and colleagues at this difficult time. I am sure that I speak on behalf of everyone at Sherwood in passing my condolences to John's family and friends.

## Updates on appointments to the Trust's Board of Directors

Further to my updates to the Trust's Board of Directors over recent months, our efforts have been continuing to recruit to a number of vacancies on the Trust's Board, as the Trust has sought to appoint two Non-Executive Directors and one Associate Non-Executive Director.

I am delighted to confirm that three appointments are planned to those roles, subject to final employment and Fit & Proper Persons Tests (FPPT) being finalised. Those appointments were approved subject to the completion of those final pre-appointment checks at an extraordinary meeting of the Trust's Council of Governors on 17 January 2025.

One appointment that has been confirmed is that of Richard Cotton, a Management Accountant who has spent most of his career in the private sector in a range of industries, including pharmaceuticals. He has also carried out a number of Non-Executive Director (NED) roles in the pharmaceutical and medical sectors.

His role and portfolio here at Sherwood will involve providing Board-level strategic financial leadership experience, joining the Trust's Finance and Partnerships & Communities Committees, where he will work with the rest of our Trust Board of Directors to strengthen the Trust's assurance, governance and forward planning processes.



**Richard Cotton**

I am sure that colleagues will join me in welcoming Richard to the Trust, with Richard due to join his first Public Meeting of our Board of Directors in February.

Two further appointments will be announced to the following roles, once vital pre-appointment checks have concluded satisfactorily. As a reminder, those roles are as follows:

- One clinically-qualified Non-Executive Director with extensive experience in primary care, secondary care, public health or social care to join the Quality and Finance Committees.
- One Associate Non-Executive Director with a focus on research and innovation, recognising the important role that these fields play in making great care happen here at Sherwood.

As a Trust Board, we are confident that each of those appointments will add real value, insight and leadership that will help further our Trust-wide efforts to *Improving Lives* of the communities we serve.

I look forward to being able to share more details of those vital appointments with the Trust's Board of Directors, our Trust colleagues and our communities as soon as I am able to do so.

## Council of Governors election update

Efforts have been ongoing behind-the-scenes to prepare for the Trust's latest Council of Governor election, which is required to take place before the end of April 2025.

As a NHS Foundation Trust, Sherwood Forest Hospitals is required to hold Council of Governor elections to elect the governors who will ensure accountability, hold Non-Executive Directors to account and help ensure that the voices of the local communities we serve are considered in the running of our services.

This latest election will seek to appoint to 10 vacancies on the Trust's Council of Governors across the Trust constituency boundaries that were reconfigured when our Trust Constitution was last reviewed in 2024.

This election will seek to appoint to 10 vacancies in the following constituencies:

- Five vacancies in our 'Mansfield, Ashfield & surrounding wards' public constituency
- Two in our 'Newark & Sherwood & surrounding wards' public constituency
- One in our 'Rest of England' public constituency; and
- Two vacancies for Trust colleagues to serve as 'Staff' governors

Details (including the precise timeline for these elections) are now being finalised for those elections, which I look forward to being able to share with the Trust's Board of Directors over the coming weeks.

## Recognising the difference made by our Trust Charity and Trust volunteers

January was another busy month for our Trust's Community Involvement team, both in how they encouraged financial donations to be made via our Trust Charity and through the thousands of hours that continue to be committed to support the Trust by our volunteers across our hospitals.

In January alone, 380 Trust volunteers generously gave over 4,550 hours of their time to help make great patient care happen across the 30 services they have supported during the month.

During the month, four volunteers were presented with Long Service Awards, recognising their long service and dedication over five to 25 years.

Other notable developments from the Sherwood Forest Hospitals Charity and our Community Involvement team:

- Patients and staff at Newark Hospital are benefiting from the purchase of innovative new equipment thanks to generous donations from The Magnus Foundation.

The Foundation donated £44,301 to Sherwood Forest Hospitals Charity over two years, which has been used to buy two waste management systems for the operating theatres at Newark Hospital.

The Neptune Rover 3 waste management system collects, transports, and disposes of surgical waste fluid and will bring benefits to both patients and staff.



An average of 19 minutes per procedure will be saved thanks to the new equipment, with the faster operating times leading to a better patient experience. The time saved will enable more operations to be performed in the department, which is great news for patients waiting to have their surgery at Newark Hospital.

The introduction of the equipment also improves safety to staff by reducing their exposure to potentially infectious liquids and limiting the risk of manual handling injuries. It will also be safer for patients as it means that staff can monitor their fluid levels more effectively during a procedure.

- Profits from the Daffodil Cafe and fundraising stall have funded 19 projects to the value of £47,000 during the last three months.

A couple of recently completed projects include supplying bespoke oak leaf badges for new Healthcare Assistants following a suggestion from the Shared Governance Council.

Another project saw 24 sets of weighing scales purchased for the Diabetes Dietetics Team to support education of portion control for newly-diagnosed paediatric patients.

- During the month, we were also delighted to welcome students from Quarrydale Academy in Sutton-in-Ashfield, who visited the Breast Unit to donate mastectomy bags (which are worn over the shoulder to carry surgical drains following an operation) and heart-shaped cushions to make patients more comfortable, which they made during their textiles class.





**Students from Quarrydale Academy present their donations**

We remain so grateful to everyone who has given their time, money and support in other ways to support the Trust and our hard-working colleagues over the past month. I thank them all for their support.

### Other notable engagements during December and January:

- I attended the regular update calls with NHS England's Midlands Regional Director, Dale Bywater, in both December and January.
- I met with Nottinghamshire Healthwatch with the Trust's Acting Chief Executive, Dave Selwyn, to demonstrate our commitment to working together moving forwards – something we will be keen to explore over the months.
- Chairs and elected members from our NHS and local authorities across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire met on 19 December
- On 6 January 2025, I joined the Trust's Acting Chief Executive, Dave Selwyn, in a meeting with the Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) to explore how the Trust can look to work more closely with the college as another vital partner in our local education sector.
- I joined the Trust's Council of Governors Membership and Engagement Forum meeting on Tuesday 7 January to update the Trust's governors about the Trust's financial position and the planned Non-Executive Director appointments to our Trust's Board of Directors.

- I attended the NHS England (Midlands) operating model engagement event with Chairs and Chief Executives from across the region to consider the role that our Trust will play in the development and delivery of the new NHS 10-year plan.
- I joined the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Non-Executive Directors network meeting on 23 January
- I joined our quarterly meeting with colleagues from Newark and Sherwood District Council on Tuesday 28 January to discuss our continued partnership working.
- I have held regular catch-up meetings with our Trust's Lead Governor, Liz Barrett.
- I attended a planning guidance webinar with the NHS Chief Executive and the Secretary of State.