

Council of Governors - Cover Sheet

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|--|---|---|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------|
| Subject: | Acting Chair's Report | | | | Date: | 11 February 2025 |
| Prepared By: | Rich Brown, Head of Communication | | | | | |
| Approved By: | Graham Ward, Acting Chair | | | | | |
| Presented By: | Graham Ward, Acting Chair | | | | | |
| Purpose | | | | | | |
| An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items the past three months from the Acting Chair's perspective. | | | | | Approval | |
| | | | | | Assurance | |
| | | | | | Update | Y |
| | | | | | Consider | Y |
| Strategic Objectives | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Principal Risk | | | | | | |
| PR1 | Significant deterioration in standards of safety and care | | | | | |
| PR2 | Demand that overwhelms capacity | | | | | |
| PR3 | Critical shortage of workforce capacity and capability | | | | | |
| PR4 | Insufficient financial resources available to support the delivery of services | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | |
| Committees/groups where this item has been presented before | | | | | | |
| None | | | | | | |
| Acronyms | | | | | | |
| ATTFE = Academy Transformation Trust Further Education NTU = Nottingham Trent University STEM = Science, technology, engineering and maths | | | | | | |
| Executive Summary | | | | | | |
| An update regarding some of the most noteworthy events and items the past three months 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.

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, governors will know that 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

The proposed timeline for that election is below:

| TASK | DATE |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Publication of Notice of Election | Thursday 27 February 2025 |
| Sherwood to submit the membership data to UK Engage | Monday 17 March 2025 |
| Deadline for Receipt of Nominations | Monday 17 March 2025, 12noon |
| Publication of Statement of Nominations | Tuesday 18 March 2025 |
| Deadline for Candidate Withdrawals | Thursday 20 March 2025, 11.59pm |
| Notice of Poll / Issue of Ballot Packs | Tuesday 1 April 2025 |
| Close of poll | Monday 28 April 2025, 5pm |
| Declaration of result | Tuesday 29 April 2025 |

A period of intensive communications, marketing and membership engagement activity is planned to align to the above timeline to ensure that our Council of Governors will continue to attract the best possible candidates, as well as to encourage as many members as possible to cast their vote in this year's election.

New Non-Executive Directors and Associate Non-Executive Director take up their posts

Sherwood Forest Hospitals has announced a number of changes to its Board of Directors, following appointments to Non-Executive and Associate Non-Executive Director roles at the Trust.

Lisa Maclean and Richard Cotton appointed to Non-Executive Director roles

Lisa Maclean joins Sherwood Forest Hospitals having previously served as a Director of Nursing in a number of NHS and independent sector roles, as well as having worked as a nurse in acute, psychiatric and forensic psychiatric settings.

Ms Maclean was also a director of a military charity and a hospice. She will serve on the Trust's Quality and Finance Committees.

Richard Cotton has also been appointed to bring further strategic financial leadership experience to the Trust, having spent much of his career in the private sector in a range of industries, including with pharmaceutical and medical technology companies.

Mr Cotton has previously worked in several public company Chief Financial Officer roles and now carries out a number of Non-Executive Director (NED) roles in the pharmaceutical and medical technology sectors. He will join the Trust's Finance and Partnerships & Communities Committees.

The pair will both be working with the rest of the Trust's Board of Directors to strengthen its assurance, governance and forward planning processes.

Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam appointed as Trust's Associate Non-Executive Director

Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam (JVT) has been appointed as an Associate Non-Executive Director on the Trust's Board of Directors, with a specific focus on research and innovation.

'JVT' will be familiar to many from his time helping to lead the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic where he became a familiar face as the government's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, leading on health protection between October 2017 to March 2022.

His significant clinical experience in emergency medicine, anaesthesia, general medicine, infectious diseases and the pharmaceutical industry, along with over 30 years as a leading medical researcher in Nottingham, will support Sherwood Forest Hospital's ambition to further its research and innovation efforts.

Recognising the difference made by our Trust Charity and Trust volunteers

The past three months was another period 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.

College, university and hospitals show the power of partnership

The Trust's pioneering partnerships with local education providers continue to go from strength-to-strength – a fact we saw first-hand on a visit to West Nottinghamshire College alongside our Acting Chief Executive and Nottingham Trent University (NTU) colleagues in October.

We joined leaders at West Nottinghamshire College's Derby Road and Chesterfield Road campuses to see the state-of-the-art facilities that equip students to work in the health and care sectors.

Starting at Derby Road, we saw the college's recently upgraded Robin Hood Ward – a simulated clinical environment where T-Level Health students undertake practical learning in a realistic setting. The ward boasts the latest equipment including robotic patients with artificial intelligence to help learners practice their skills, and an interactive digital dissection table that teaches them about body and skeletal systems in 3D.

This was followed by a visit to NTU's Centre for Health and Allied Professions, located on the site, to see its own hi-tech virtual hospital wards where undergraduates are training to become the healthcare professionals of tomorrow.

Next was a visit to the college's computer science department to learn about the technology at students' disposal and the chance for them to move into IT roles within the health service. We were then shown the college's simulated nursery, where education and early years students experience a real-life environment.

At the Chesterfield Road campus, we saw construction work on the Future Tech Skills and Knowledge Exchange. Due to open in summer 2025, the £8.8million hub will prepare students for jobs in emerging industries, with a strong focus on innovation and science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.

Our visit ended with a tour of the sixth-form college on Chesterfield Road South and its suite of science laboratories for students on A-Level and diploma courses.

Joint working between the three organisations is already providing ever-increasing opportunities for people to train for rewarding occupations in the health and care sectors through further and higher education courses, apprenticeships and work placements.

Together, we have also run a series of Step into the NHS events aimed at promoting the various job roles available in the area's hospitals and the educational routes towards them, with the latest of those events due to take place later this week.

In addition, college students with additional needs have the chance to undertake a year-long supported internship programme at King's Mill Hospital to gain confidence and employability skills so they are ready for the workplace.

Meanwhile, students on its T-Level in Health course are undertaking long-term industrial placements at the hospital, under the supervision of a nurse jointly employed by both partners, while the apprenticeship pathways also continue to grow.

Our visit was aimed at building upon our longstanding relationship with West Notts College and seeing the work we've been doing together to develop the T-Level training programme and the investment the college has made, along with its strong partnership with Nottingham Trent University.

We were very impressed by the developments that have taken place and the phenomenal difference that investment can make for the students of today and the workforce of tomorrow.

We are looking forward to continuing to develop this further to ensure that students have a seamless journey to a meaningful career.

Other notable engagements over the past three months:

- 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 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 meetings with colleagues from Ashfield District Council, Mansfield District Council, and Newark and Sherwood District Council 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.
- I met with the Trust's former Chief Executive, Jeff Worrall, to welcome him into his new role as Chair of East Midlands Ambulance Service.
- I held my quarterly Chairs' meeting with Nick Carver from Nottingham University Hospitals and Paul Devlin from Nottinghamshire Healthcare, which we agreed to extend to include Jeff Worrall from East Midlands Ambulance Service in the future.

- We took part in one of our regular Chairs' and Chief Executives' catch-up meetings with Dr Kathy McLean and Amanda Sullivan from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board.
- We held a full Board of Directors workshop, focusing on the progress made and future direction of the Trust's five-year Improving Lives Strategy.