

REPORT TO PUBLIC TRUST BOARD

Enclosure 5

Date of Meeting:	13 June 2024		
Title of Report:	Chairs Report		
Presented by:	Janet Dawson, Chair		
Author:	Janet Dawson, Chair		
Executive Lead Name:	N/A	Approved by Exec	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of the report:			
Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consider for Action	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary:

This report updates the Board on activities undertaken since the last meeting and draws the Board's attention to any other issues of significance or interest.

Seen at:	SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Execs <input type="checkbox"/>	Document Version No.	1
Committee Approval / Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Resource Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Audit Committee <input type="checkbox"/> People, Culture & Development Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Funds Committee <input type="checkbox"/> 		
Strategic Priorities (please indicate)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Growth - We will commit to investing in providing high-quality preventative services that reduce the need for secondary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access - We will ensure that everybody who needs our services will be able to choose the way, the time, and the place in which they access them <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention - To will continue to grow high-quality, integrated services delivered by an innovative and sustainable workforce. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 		
BAF / Risk / legal implications: Risk Register Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide the highest quality, safe and effective services <input type="checkbox"/> We will attract, develop and retain the best people <input type="checkbox"/> We will actively promote partnership and integrated models of working <input type="checkbox"/> We will increase our efficiency and effectiveness through sustainable development <input type="checkbox"/> <p>Any Risk/legal implications: (please reference if any)</p>		
Sustainability:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the environmental impact of health and social care in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Build a network of climate and sustainability champions across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Share learning and best practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 		

Resource Implications:	N/A	
Funding Source:	N/A	
Diversity & Inclusion Implications: (Assessment of issues connected to the Equality Act 'protected characteristics' and other equality groups). See wider D&I Guidance	There is no direct impact on the protected characteristics as part of the completion of this report.	
ICS Alignment / Implications:	N/A	
Recommendations:	Board is asked to receive for information and assurance	
Version	Name/group	Date issued
1	Janet Dawson	7 June 2024

Board report – June Board

NHS New Chair and NED welcome day

I attended the NHS welcome day during the month and it was a great opportunity for networking with other NEDs and particularly those who found themselves newly in a chair role or about to take one up. I am always impressed by the huge range of backgrounds from which people come and high calibre of those who choose to support the NHS in this way which is also reflected in our own board. A very useful and open introduction from Richard Meddings, Chair of NHSE which helped to put into perspective some of the pressures we see finding their way down from the centre via the Regions into Systems and providers. Navina Evans was there to provide a personal insight into her journey as an Asian woman within the medical profession and wider NHS which drives her passion for diversity and belonging. Bola Owalabi – Director of National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Board and a practicing GP gave an excellent talk on Health Inequalities and her slides are appended to this report for interest. There was also an excellent double act from a Chair and Chief Executive on how to work in harmony with one another – insightful and very funny.

Other sections covered good data analysis, and I was pleased to be able to confirm that we already use statistical process control (SPC) at Combined, and NHS productivity relative to the wider economy and the rest of the Public Sector including an overlay of NHS real term funding over the past 20 years. While NHS productivity has decreased since Covid where it rose massively, it still outperforms the rest of the Public Sector but not the wider economy. The funding showed that in real terms funding has been negative or flat since Covid where funding was hugely increased. Food for thought.

Universities

I was pleased to meet virtually with Trevor McMillan the Vice Chancellor of Keele University as part of my ongoing induction and we had a very useful conversation about the relationship between our two organisations and the strong partnership that exists in several aspects of our work. I also visited Staffordshire University to meet their Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Kevin Heatherington and Mike Phillips, Executive Dean at their Health Innovation Centre in Stafford. This was a fascinating experience. The teaching space includes an emergency ward, paediatric and maternity wards and two simulation spaces that are used to train a number of different disciplines including paramedics for the ambulance service. The virtual wards have very realistic models that can be monitored for vital signs, have trauma replicated and the maternity model is able to give birth to allow trainee midwives to practice their skills in a safe environment. The University has made a significant investment to create an environment as close as possible to the hospital, GP surgery and home locations that staff will encounter in their placements. I am sure other universities provide similar training spaces, but it was particularly useful to see what our Staffordshire placement students are experiencing. As for Keele, the feedback from students at Staffordshire on Combined is always positive and people feel both welcome and valued by our organisation.

Picture below: A and E ward with visitors to a robot patient: Deputy Vice Chancellor, academic and technical support staff with the Chair.



Other connections

I am continuing to meet up with other stakeholders and have had good introductory meetings with Jackie Small, Chair of MPUFT and Jane Wentworth, Leader of Stoke on Trent City Council. It's good to make these connections and I have regular meetings scheduled in with Jackie and will follow up with Jane in due course on the items we discussed. I also had the opportunity to join the ICB board after its meeting last month to take part in a session with Roger Kline on Inclusion and Belonging and the Too Hot to Handle report. Not sure we reached a clear action plan, but the shared intent to make sure we improve our performance on D&I was evident as a System. We will of course do our part to move that agenda forwards in any way we can.

Team Visit

Kerry and I had an opportunity to visit the E-Rostering and Temporary Staffing team to hear from them how things were going. The team had done its homework and were armed with metrics to demonstrate how many contacts there were dealing with and how that had risen over time. Improvements have been made to systems and processes to accommodate this increase, but it was clear that this is a very busy team doing vital work to support patient safety. We heard their ideas about how things could be further improved, and the team demonstrated a real passion for getting things right. Thanks to the team for giving us an hour of their busy day.

Long-Service Awards

I know we mentioned this verbally last month as it took place the day before the May board meeting, but I wanted to record my thanks for the opportunity to take part and to meet so many people who had given 20 plus years to the NHS. It was good to see so many people catching up with old friends and making new connections. Those celebrating long service this time had worked for the NHS for a total of 3xxx years which is an extraordinary contribution to healthcare and public service. Thanks once again to all of them.

Board Recruitment

Our recent advertisement for the two roles we would like to fill has generated a high level of interest in the Trust. I have spoken to around 15 people over the past two weeks and had to defer any further chats until after we have finalised the shortlist which we will have done by the time this report comes to board. The most interest has been in the People, Culture and Development role, and as we widened the role requirements, we have had interest from a very diverse group of people. I have had some enjoyable conversations and met some interesting people. We move forward with stakeholder interviews on 17th June and the panel interviews on 28th June. Thank you to everyone who is supporting the process.

Janet Dawson
Chair
June 2024