

Enclosure 5

Chairs Report – November 2024

Report provided for:				Report to:	Public Trust Board
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date of Meeting:	14 th November 2024
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Presented by:	Janet Dawson, Chair
Prepared by:	Janet Dawson, Chair
Executive Lead:	

Aligned to Board Assurance Framework Risk	Risk 1
Approval / Review:	N/A
Strategic Priorities:	Prevention - We will continue to grow high-quality, integrated services delivered by an innovative and sustainable workforce
Key Enablers:	Quality - We will provide the highest quality, safe and effective services
Sustainability:	Share learning and best practice
Resource Implications:	No
Funding Source:	N/A
Diversity & Inclusion Implications	Includes details of support delivered to all staff following recent civil unrest and racist incidents
ICS Alignment / Implications:	Strategic fit with system priorities
Recommendation / Required Action	For information and assurance
Executive Summary	<p>The report updates the Board on strategic activity undertaken since the last meeting and draws the Board's attention to any other issues of significance or interest.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black History Month celebration - Audit Chair recruitment - Hospital Visits

- Farewell to Two Board Members

VERSION CONTROL:

Version	Report to	Date Reported
V1	Trust Board	08.11.24

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Chair's report – November Board



1. Black History Month celebration

It was great to have the opportunity this month to join our staff networks, led by Embrace, to celebrate Black History Month at Longton Rugby Club. The session was hosted by Boluwatife Adeoye who kept us all on track through the various presentations on the day. There was an upbeat atmosphere enhanced by conversations around personal brand and profile raising but this did not stop us discussing some tricky subjects like discrimination, discomfort with difference and failure to support those with global majority heritage when they started new roles as many described how difficult it was to just find out how things work around here. When asked what the Board could do better there were a number of ideas; get involved – I will attend the next Embrace meeting, stand up for us – make sure that the board is clear in its support for global majority colleagues and lead by example. On the latter point, we have some great role models at Board level but we can always do more so food for thought for us all. Congratulations to the team for putting on such a great day and delicious lunch. It would have been great to see more people from the wider trust there to learn. It did feel like everyone in the room was sympathetic to the issues so looking forward to next year, let's get more people in the room.

2. Audit Chair recruitment

We are hoping to conclude our search for a new chair of Audit Committee when we will be holding a further interview panel on 27th November.



3. Hospital Visits

It was a great pleasure to welcome to Harplands two of our newly elected and re-elected MPs, Adam Jogee MP and Gareth Snell MP for a visit to the Crisis Centre and to see how we have invested in our inpatient wards through Project Chrysalis. Both were impressed with the enthusiasm of our people and the environment we have created for inpatients at the hospital and for those who might need immediate intervention in crisis. We followed the tour with a round table discussion supported by Ben Richards, Josey Gaitley and Deborah Hargreaves to talk about some of the challenges we are experiencing around children's waiting lists and how these can be impacted by external factors. We are grateful to Adam and Gareth for taking the time to visit and we look forward to welcoming their colleagues, Allison Gardner MP and David Williams MP later this month.



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Earlier in the year I invited my Chair colleagues from UHMN and MPUFT to come and see what we do at Harplands and I was delighted that both David Wakefield and Jackie Small were able to visit us in October. As for the MPs, they saw the Crisis Centre in action and were impressed with the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of our staff and both enjoyed watching the helpline team in action and touring the facilities in the Crisis Centre. We were also able to visit Ward 1 and for David particularly, this provided an insight into how inpatient facilities feel now, a far cry from the image held by many people of what an acute mental health ward might look like. Joe was able to explain that we had virtual tours available on line to allow those joining us for treatment to understand what their surroundings would look like before they arrived. Thanks to everyone who supported these two visits.



4. Farewell to two Board members

This is the last Board meeting for two stalwarts of the Combined Board and I would like to pay tribute to them in our Public Board in recognition of their long service to the Trust, its staff and service users.

Tony Gadsby has held the roles of Non-executive Director, Vice Chair and latterly Associate Non-executive on the board for a number of years. He has brought to the Board his extensive experience as a businessman and been a member of the Finance and Resources and Audit and Charitable Trust Committees. Never afraid to ask the challenging questions, often the ones that no one else asks, we are grateful for his insights and contribution to Trust business. Tony has also been the contact point and support for the Mental Health Associate Hospital Managers who support the Trust with independent assessment of our services and support with Mental Health Tribunals. Dr Roger Banks will take over this role from Tony in January. With his deep knowledge of the history of Combined and his support to the Trust over his time with us, Tony will be greatly missed.

Dr Keith Tattum joined Combined as an Associate Non-Executive Director with the specific role of providing advice to the Board regarding Primary Care and to help us to keep our activities aligned with Primary Care Practice and to support a better understanding of how our services were perceived by GP's and patients. With his deep knowledge of North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent and his wider professional connections Keith has guided and advised the Board throughout his time with us and like Tony, has an extensive knowledge of and understanding of our history and how we have arrived where we are today. Never afraid to hold a mirror up to the organisation Keith has been a valued critical friend, and we will miss his insights into our services from a service user perspective. We wish both well and they leave with our sincere gratitude for their service to Combined.

Janet Dawson

November 2024