

# North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust Board Briefing – October 2024 Board

This briefing aims to keep you informed of the discussions at our Trust Board. To watch the recording and read the papers, please visit the [Board Meeting page](#) on the Combined Healthcare website. Please note this briefing does not replace the official Board minutes, which will be published in due course and be available on the website.

## REACH Recognition Team Award

This month's REACH Recognition Team Award was presented to the Research and Development Team. You can watch the recording of the REACH Award [at this link](#).

## Chief Executive's Report

Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, presented the report, which is available [at this link](#). Buki in particular highlighted that the Board meeting was taking place on World Mental Health Day, with an emphasis on mental health at work. Buki particularly praised the role of the Combined Voices choir in promoting mental health wellbeing at work. The ambition of the trust in promoting involvement in the NHS staff survey was also raised, as well as the launch of this year's flu vaccination campaign. You can watch the recording of the CEO Report [at this link](#).

## ICB Briefing 26 September 2024

Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, presented the report to the Committee. The report is available [at this link](#).

## Chair's Report

Janet Dawson gave a Chair's Report to Board. Janet welcomed Dr Roger Banks to his first Trust Board meeting. Janet had enjoyed a recent meeting to Marrow House. She was aware from her talks with various people that there was uncertainty and a sense of waiting for a range of important major issues, including at national and system levels, and wanted to thank the Executive Team for their leadership of teams across the trust in these circumstances. You can watch the recording of the Chair's Report [at this link](#).

## Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public. **N.B. Anyone can submit a question for consideration and discussion at the Board via the [Ask The Board facility](#) on the Trust website.**



## Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24

Kenny Laing presented the Report. This report provides assurance that the Trust is meeting its safeguarding roles and duties, that are laid out in the NHS England 'Accountability and Assurance Framework, 2015 outlining the safeguarding work within the Trust for the period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. We are making a positive difference and highlighting any challenges, whilst providing assurance of compliance to the Trust Board and partners.

One thing Kenny wanted to highlight was the work being done to improve safeguarding in the area of sexual safety, which had also received national attention. The Board discussed the challenge of recording safeguarding for people with learning disabilities.

## Winter Plan 2024/25

Ben Richards presented the Plan for approval, which was given by the Board. The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care System (SSOT ICS) has traditionally had particular challenges in the winter and therefore the system collaborates on a series of actions, the majority of which are outlined within the ICS Winter Plan.

The Winter Plan sets out in summary:

- Actions to maintain and strengthen capacity within Acute and Urgent Care, Specialist Services and Primary Care.
- A balanced approach to admissions and discharges, with the aim of reducing avoidable delays, maintaining services and delivering appropriate waiting times
- An increase in social care capacity to support discharges from hospital
- Plans for an effective 'flu and COVID booster programme
- Arrangements to ensure staff capacity is in place over the festive period...

## Quality Committee Committee Assurance Report

Jennie Koo presented the report from the meeting of the Quality Committee held on 3rd October 2024. The IQPR metrics had been considered in relation to care planning and the improvement in agency spend was welcome. There had also been discussion on CAMHS waiting times.

There had also been an internal review of outreach services which had been generally positive, but had identified resource issues that would be considered. Work was also going on at system level.

## Improving Quality and Performance Report (IQPR) Month 5

Eric Gardiner presented the report. Generally speaking, performance remains encouraging. Vacancy rates had improved and agency spend was coming down faster than anticipated. There were now no off-framework agency staff in clinical services.

The Board wanted to recognise the continuing improvement in the quality and breadth of the IQPR Report.

## Workforce Race Equality Standard / Workforce Disability Equality Standard

Kerry Smith presented the report. The trust had seen continue improvement in both regards, but there were some slows in decline. Our global majority staffing had improved.

There had also been improvements in bullying and harassment from service users. The Trust had carried out a lot of work in the area of civility and just and restorative culture.

Belief in equal opportunities and progression had seen a worsening position, in both race and disability, and deep dives had been carried out to identify opportunities for improvement. We remained one of the best performing trusts nationally, but were never complacent and would continue to concentrate on improving our performance and addressing any areas of concern.

Kerry brought to the Board's attention that this was Black History Month. There were a range of activities going on to mark this important initiative.

As Chair, Janet wanted to emphasise that all non-Executives were keen to do whatever was necessary to support our efforts in this agenda, particularly in relation to emphasising our commitment to anti-racism.

## People, Culture and Development Committee Assurance Report

Russell Andrews presented the report from the meeting of the People, Culture and Development Committee held on 30th September 2024. There was a detailed discussion on race equality at work. The Committee had also noted the improvement in agency spend. The Committee had considered and discussed in detail the continuing deterioration in sickness absence. The Committee thought the Health and Wellbeing Plan was a very detailed and impressive piece of work. It had also looked at progress in year one of the workforce plan.

There was an extended discussion at the Board about the opportunities and impact of new ways of working, including hybrid working and use of digital technologies and channels.

## Finance Report Month 5

Eric Gardiner presented the report. The trust reported a small surplus in month, which was on plan. The trust continued to remain on track to deliver a small surplus at the end of the financial year. We had had a visit from NHS England to the new works on Ward 2 which had been very positive.

## Finance and Resource Committee Assurance Report

The report from the meeting of 3rd October 2024 was presented by Russell Andrews. The committee had noted the worsening system financial position, including moving to level four.

The Committee looked at the IQPR report and noted improvements in the PIP regime.

Financial performance particularly in agency spend was welcome.

## Consent items

The following item was presented as a consent item, which can be read in the [Board papers bundle](#):

- Safer Staffing Monthly Report September 2024

## Any Other Business

The Board meeting closed at 11.40am. Date and time of next meeting in public is 10am, 14th November 2024. To access papers and meeting link, please visit <https://www.combined.nhs.uk/about-us/our-board/board-meetings/>