

Enclosure No: 3

## CEO BOARD REPORT

<b>Report provided for:</b>				<b>Report to:</b>	Public Trust Board
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 March 2025
Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>		

<b>Presented by:</b>	Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Joe McCrea, Associate Director of Communications
<b>Executive Lead:</b>	Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive Officer

<b>Aligned to Board Assurance Framework Risk</b>	Risk 1 The Trust fails to deliver effective care leading to regulatory restrictions
<b>Approval / Review:</b>	Execs
<b>Strategic Priorities:</b>	The report contains information that aligns to the Trusts strategic priorities of - Prevention, Access and Growth
<b>Key Enablers:</b>	Quality - We will provide the highest quality, safe and effective services
<b>Sustainability:</b>	Share learning and best practice
<b>Resource Implications:</b>	No
<b>Funding Source:</b>	N/A
<b>Diversity &amp; Inclusion Implications</b>	Report contains details of activities during Black History Month
<b>ICS Alignment / Implications:</b>	Strategic fit with system priorities
<b>Recommendation / Required Action</b>	Receive and discuss
<b>Executive Summary</b>	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.

These include:

- Amanda Pritchard, NHS Chief Executive, resigns.
- Survey reveals GP access is top NHS concern for the public.
- Winter pressures improved but not out of the woods.
- Daniel Elkeles to become NHS Providers chief executive Investigation and Intervention (I&I)
- ICS launches health and care careers podcast.
- Social Care Academy platform for adult care sector career training Mike Lawton joins ICB as non-executive board member Operational planning 2025/26.
- Engagement event brings together local stakeholders Orbis implementation begins with first discovery workshops National Staff Survey
- LGBTQ+ History Month
- Ministerial and MP visits to Combined.
- Clinical Health Psychology renamed Physical Health Psychology

#### VERSION CONTROL:

Version	Report to	Date Reported
V1	Public Trust Board	07.03.25

# Chief Executive's Report to the Trust Board 13 March 2025

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This 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.

## 2.0 NATIONAL CONTEXT AND UPDATES

### Amanda Pritchard, NHS Chief Executive, resigns

After three and a half years in the role, Amanda Pritchard announced on 25 February that she will be stepping down from the NHS England Chief Executive.

Pritchard will stay in post until April, when Jim Mackey will take over as interim Chief Executive. Mackey is currently Chief Executive of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Pritchard's statement said: "This has not been a decision I have taken lightly. It has been an enormous privilege to help lead the NHS in England since 2019, through the most difficult period in its history, first as Chief Operating Officer and latterly as Chief Executive.

"I am enormously proud of what we have achieved together over this last five and a half years – first in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and then beginning the steady recovery from the inevitable impact it had."

Pritchard said that she has put in place the foundations for sustainable improvement and transformation that would enable her successor to help deliver the government's 10-year NHS plan.

### Survey reveals GP access is top NHS concern for the public

In a survey by the Health Foundation and Ipsos, 38% of people ranked getting easier access to GP appointments as their top priority. Closely following was waiting times in A&E (33%), improving NHS working conditions (29%) and reducing routine hospital waiting times (27%).

The poll asked 2,198 people over the age of 16 in November 2024 and is part of a wider public perceptions survey programme from the Health Foundation.

The results broadly reflect the Government's three shifts in healthcare as part of its 10-year health plan. The three shifts are focusing more on prevention over sickness, moving care from hospital into the community and a better use of technology.



## Winter pressures improved but not out of the woods

The latest NHS England figures reveal that there is a record number of patients in hospital with Norovirus, though overall improvements have been made. RSV and COVID-19 are in the rise, though the number of beds closed due to flu are a fifth lower than last year.

Meanwhile, 95% of adult beds are occupied, with one in seven beds occupied by people who don't need hospital care.

As a Trust, we continue to encourage our staff to receive their Flu vaccinations, which are still being offered. Taking every measure we can will help to protect ourselves, our patients and each other as we come out of the winter months.

## Daniel Elkeles to become NHS Providers Chief Executive.

NHS Providers, the membership body representing every NHS hospital, mental health, community and ambulance service in England has appointed Daniel Elkeles as its next Chief Executive.

Daniel, who is currently Chief Executive at London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, will take up his new role with NHS Providers, in May 2025.

Elkeles said in the announcement: "We're at a critical moment for the health service, with the 10-year health plan and spending review on the horizon. It is clear we need to improve productivity to deliver value for money and implement the three shifts to meet the changing needs of the population. I know that Trusts are up for the challenge.

"I look forward to working with our members and the brilliant team at NHS Providers so that we can play a leading role in transforming the NHS into a health service of which the Government, Trusts and crucially, patients can be proud."

## 3.0 STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS)

### Investigation and Intervention (I&I)

Weekly Financial Control and Recovery Group meetings continue but Deloitte are no longer supporting these meetings. The formal I&I process has now ended and the final closure report from Deloitte is due to be shared with the ICS in early March which will highlight the savings made. The report will also highlight additional opportunities that could be implemented in the new financial year.

### ICS launches health and care careers podcast.

A new health and care careers podcast has been launched in February by the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System (ICS). The podcast will explore the different entry routes into careers within the ICS, with the first episode interviewing students who have undertaken T Levels.

The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS Health and Care People Team podcast was launched as part of National Apprenticeship Week (10 to 16 February 2025).



## **Social Care Academy platform for adult care sector career training**

The Social Care Academy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent platform brings together the very best of 'learn-at-your-own-pace' adult care training so that care workers and those interested in the sector can learn in a way that suits them.

Skills for Care, registered charity and workforce development body for adult social care, is pooling its courses with Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board to help care workers easily access regular training.

The new academy platform, which can be found at [www.staffsstokecareacademy.co.uk](http://www.staffsstokecareacademy.co.uk), means that everyone working in care can take their career as far as they want to go and provide the best possible care to our area's most vulnerable residents.

## **Mike Lawton joins ICB as Non-executive Board member.**

Mike Lawton, a former executive of international tyre company Michelin, has joined the ICB as Non-executive Director.

Mike's substantial experience in global business transformation, commercial strategy and customer focussed initiatives for Michelin, will be used in his new role as he chairs the new Strategic Commissioning and Transformation Committee.

For 16 years, Mike served on the Boards of five prominent housing associations in the Midlands, working alongside care professionals, Local Authorities, healthcare providers and regulators.

## **4.0 OUR TRUST**

### **Operational planning 2025/26**

It has been a busy and challenging few weeks of planning for the Trust and our NHS system partners. We have spent time engaging across our organisation and with our partners on the opportunities for service improvements.

We have done the work to produce a plan that delivers our activity and maintains our workforce numbers. This will ensure we live within the finances we are allocated. Our Operational Plan will be presented at Board this month for approval and submitted to NHS England via the ICB by the end of the month.



#### 4.1



### Engagement event brings together local stakeholders

Our annual Engagement@Combined event took place on 10 February, welcoming a diverse range of partners, stakeholders and representatives from local organisations.

The main goal of the event was to invite feedback on the Trust's Quality Account, while colleagues from Combined provided an overview of some of the key areas of the organisation.

The event also gave an opportunity for attendees to share their feedback on areas of focus for the upcoming year and provided a space for networking and key conversations.

A summary video has been created which shows some of the highlights and is available on our YouTube channel.

### Orbis implementation begins with first discovery workshops.

We are transforming our Electronic Patient Record to deliver better quality care and services. For patients, the implementation of ORBIS U will simplify their experience, bringing together services, processes, and data.

For clinicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals, it will support and streamline the way they work across clinical pathways.

The implementation has now begun, with the first face-to-face discovery workshops taking place, bringing together our frontline staff with the trust project team and development colleagues from Dedalus. Feedback from the sessions will inform the detailed design and delivery of the Orbis solution for Combined Healthcare.

#### 4.2



### National Staff Survey

Our National NHS Staff Survey results have been received from our provider for 2024 and remain under embargo. The results show very positively when compared to our comparator group who used the same provider and have been shared with senior leaders and subject leads to identify priority areas for development and action this year.

Results have also been shared and are being analysed with senior leaders at directorate level, where three priority areas of importance will be identified using localised results. These areas will help to shape action plans, as we wait for more detailed bespoke data to become available such as the anonymised staff comments and year on year results which will be shared to support a deeper understanding of local need.



Proactive work has been actioned through the development of a communications and engagement plan around the findings from our results and in preparation for us to celebrate areas of achievement and areas for further development.

A presentation of our results to the Board is scheduled for 13 March 2025 as part of a Board Development seminar, with the findings presented by the staff survey provider.

## **LGBTQ+ History Month**

February was LGBTQ+ History Month and this year's theme was activism and social change, celebrating LGBTQ+ people's contribution towards creating a more inclusive society. We were celebrating the activists within our Trust and wider ICS partner organisations, as well as those driving change nationally and beyond.

Further details are provided in our Chair's Report.

4.3



## **Ministerial and MP visits to Combined.**

We had two VIP visits to the Trust during the past month, continuing our programme of welcoming stakeholders and decision-makers to Combined.

On 28 February, two of our local Members of Parliament – Allison Gardner MP and David Williams MP – visited us for the first time. Both were elected to Parliament in the 2024 general election.

This was followed on 3 March by the first visit to the Trust of a serving Government Minister – Baroness Merron, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Care – accompanied by Gareth Snell MP.

Full details of the visits are contained in this month's Chair's Report. It was a pleasure to be able to showcase some of our outstanding services and teams to our visitors, including the Edward Myers Unit, Ward 3 and our peer support workers. Many thanks to our staff in these services for their participation and contribution.

We will be following up the visits with details of some of the topics raised in discussion and I will keep the Board updated on any developments.

## **Clinical Health Psychology renamed Physical Health Psychology**

Our Clinical Health Psychology service has undergone a rebranding in an effort to enhance awareness of its services among potential referrers and users. The new name, 'Physical Health Psychology' (PHP) reflects the terminology used by similar specialist services across the country and is informed by valuable feedback from our stakeholders.



CEO Board Report





Our A–Z service information pages on our website are regularly kept up to date, and the Physical Health Psychology service now includes information on referrals and criteria in line with the name change.

On 26 February, the Physical Health Psychology team hosted an event at the Bridge Centre, inviting colleagues from the Trust and other local organisations to discuss ways to improve equity and equality in psychological therapy for people from global majority groups.

Speakers included representatives from the Trust's psychology services and leadership team, along with external organisations including Freedom from Torture and Stepping Stones.

Discussion included the barriers to access of psychological therapy for those from global majority backgrounds and ways to improve engagement with patients from these groups.

Attendees represented the Trust, local healthcare and charitable organisations and other NHS organisations. They remarked that the day's discussions had provided them with new ideas around engaging with and treating global majority patients and had highlighted the importance and benefits of cross sector working in engaging with harder to reach groups.

## 5.0 Conclusion

Once again, it has been a busy month at Combined, full of further examples of the initiatives and activities that continue to contribute to us being outstanding in all we do and how we do it.

