

Enclosure No: 5

Chairs Report – March 2025

Report provided for:				Report to:	Public Trust Board
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date of Meeting:	13 th March 2025
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	There is no direct impact on the protected characteristics as part of the completion of this report.
ICS Alignment / Implications:	Strategic fit with system priorities
Recommendation / Required Action	For information
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"> - LGBTQ+ History Month - Ministerial and MP visits to Combined

VERSION CONTROL:

Version	Report to	Date Reported
V1	Trust Board	07.3.25

Chair's Report March 2025

LGBTQ+ History Month

With our continued focus on Inclusivity and Belonging it is good to see the excellent programme run in the Trust in February which was LGBTQ+ History Month with a theme of 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.

As an anchor institution, change within the NHS helps drive change in wider society for long-term improvement in the life, health and work experiences of all LGBTQ+ people. At Combined Healthcare, we are proud to be LGBTQ+ inclusive. Having a focus on LGBTQ+ inclusion each February helps us to create a better, more inclusive society in which LGBTQ+ people are better able to thrive and be themselves.

Throughout the month, we were encouraging staff and our followers to learn more about people's lived experiences and the challenges that different groups face. Over the month, Trust colleagues participated in a range of learning events held across the ICS (and beyond), with a final event being held on Wednesday 5 March, hosted by Combined Healthcare. This lunch and learn event entitled 'This is what we are. How can we be wrong?' involved a fireside chat between Combined's Mike Groden and Pauline Grant, discussing Mike's experiences and the changes he has seen over his 30-year-plus career in the NHS, as he prepares for the launch of his second bio-fictional memoir.

An extended discussion between Mike and our Associate Director of Communications, Joe McCrea, was released as a special edition of our Combinations Podcast. You can listen to the episode [at this link](#).

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 Friday 28th 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 Monday 3rd 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.

It was a pleasure to be able to showcase some of our Outstanding services to our visitors, including the Edward Myers Unit, Ward 3 and our Peer Support Workers.

The visit by our local MPs also gave us the opportunity to discuss several issues, including the absence of Mental Health Trusts from the NHS 28-day discharge framework and funding arrangements for capital investment. They were particularly interested in our digital innovations in virtual reality walkthroughs of our premises and digital translators on wheels in Ward 3. We also were able to bring their attention to the excellent work being carried out in partnership through our community lounges.

People

We will attract, develop and retain the best people



Partnerships

We will actively promote partnership and integrated models of working



It was extremely rewarding to hear the positive reaction from Baroness Merron throughout her visit to the quality of services at Combined and her recognition and appreciation of the culture of inclusion and excellence that we have built up over many years at the Trust. We are grateful to the Minister and our local MPs for making the time to visit and see our work. 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, as well as offers of help from our locally elected representatives.



Janet Dawson
Chair
March 2025