

Enclosure No: 5

Chairs Report – May 2025

Report provided for:				Report to:	Public Trust Board
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date of Meeting:	8 th May 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 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"> - Treating Everyone with Dignity - Community - System

- System
- Combined Charity

VERSION CONTROL:

Version	Report to	Date Reported
V1	Trust Board	02.05.25

Chair's Report May 2025

People

We will attract, develop and
retain the best people



Treating Everyone with Dignity

Following the recent UK Supreme Court ruling regarding the legal definition of sex under the Equality Act 2010, there will be implications for the NHS. It is the role of the Executive Team to review any guidance issued by NHSE and consider any implications for our policies, so I am not commenting on that here. I know that many people have seen an increase in unkind and inappropriate transphobic content in the media and personally on their so, in line with my previous comments on diversity and inclusion, I wanted to assure colleagues that from the board's perspective, we continue to value and recognise diversity and that we do not condone transphobia in any form.

As a Board, we remain entirely committed to making Combined a great place to work and receive care and that people can come here feeling confident that they are safe and valued. I know that the recent decision will have unsettled some people and would encourage anyone who is feeling in need of support to make use of the staff networks and the wellbeing arrangements in place in the Trust. I know there will be further updates as the implications of the decision become clearer and, in the meantime, I thank for continuing to support and being kind to each other.

Community

I had the pleasure of visiting the Salt Box in Hanley recently. It is a charity which supports ex-offenders to get settled into accommodation and secure work, provides benefit and debt advice, supports various independent churches around Stoke on Trent and of particular interest to us, provides a befriending service to older people living alone to address isolation and loneliness and support their continued independent living in their own homes. A telephone service manned by volunteers calls everyone on their client list regularly just to check in and have a chat and ensure all is well. It is a great example of the power of the voluntary sector having the agility to do a very effective job for little cost that keeps people well and at home and avoid the crises that might lead to a visit to A&E or a hospital admission. Sadly, their funding has been cut and they are preparing to rebid for money from a new fund created by the two Local Authorities. In the meantime, we have agreed to support their "chatty cafes" with some community support to chat informally to their clients and to support the skills of their volunteers and staff.

System

As you will have seen from the CEO's report, there is much activity and change going on at System level, not just in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, but Nationally. Extremely tight deadlines have been set for Systems to consider how best they might reduce their costs and how the Region might organise itself going forward. I know that many of our executives and their teams are contributing to the thinking around this, and I am grateful to them for their support to the System. It is our role as a provider of services to work closely and collaboratively with our System colleagues and BUKI and I will continue to do this as we always have. This is a worrying time for those working in the ICS and I am confident that we at Combined will be sensitive to that in our interactions with them.

Community Charity

You may be aware that a group of intrepid walkers climbed to the top of Snowden (Yr Wyddfa) on Saturday 3rd May to raise funds for our very own Combined Charity which supports staff, patients and service users at the Trust, and we thank them very much for taking the time and giving their energy to this great cause.

They have a Just Giving Page at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/c2cfundraising>. If you are able to, please support them. You will be supporting the charity at the same time and helping to make things better for people at Combined. Don't forget staff can make applications to the Combined Charity for improvements to workspaces, wards and to make patient visits more comfortable. Details can be found on the Combined Charity page on CAT.

Janet Dawson

Chair

May 2025