

Public Trust Board – 26 March 2024 – Chair’s Report

Purpose of the report

This is a regular report for information and accountability, summarising Chair and Non-Executive Director (NED) activities and key events relating to the Well-Led framework since the last Board meeting. Activities relating to formal Committees of the Board are reported through custom reports.

Analysis of the Issue

Public, Patient and Staff Engagement

NED Boardwalks and other engagement activities undertaken or planned in the period include:

- Visiting Ashby Ward on the Bradgate Mental Health Unit.
- Visiting the Physiotherapy Team at Loughborough Hospital.
- Joining the Health and Wellbeing Roadshows at the Loughborough Hospital and the Bradgate Mental Health Unit, including visits to services/wards onsite.

I was privileged to visit the Rutland Hospital to present Jean Denyer, a volunteer who contributes to many areas of the Trust, with a National Volunteer Certificate and a Valued Star Award. It was also a great opportunity to spend time with other colleagues in the Rutland Ward.

I was also pleased to meet up with CAMHS Consultant colleagues who had invited me to visit them in their services and engage with the wider multidisciplinary CAMHS team based at Loughborough Hospital.

Equality, Leadership and Culture

Highlights in this period include:

- Attending the Neurodiversity Staff Network with the CEO.
- Introducing myself at the Spectrum (LGBTQ+) Network.
- Attending the NHSE Midlands Inclusive Leadership and Accountability Conference with the CEO alongside system partners.
- Supporting the NHSE Midlands Inclusivity and Diversity (MIDAS) Awards event for 2023/24.

Working with Partners and Stakeholders

At the invitation of the Bishop of Leicester, I attended a Faith Leaders Forum to talk about building on our experience of engaging with faith groups and communities during the COVID pandemic to take forward other initiatives.

I am also following up on my meeting with the Chair of LPT’s People’s Council and LPT’s Head of Patient Experience and Involvement by joining my first People’s Council meeting as an observer.

Board Development

A workshop took place on 27 February, at which the Board reviewed progress on the further development of its Board Assurance Framework and considered its Risk Appetite. Board members were then joined by NHFT Board colleagues to:

- Receive an update on CQC transformation plans from Craig Howarth, CQC Deputy Director of Operations and consider the implications for both Trusts.
- Engage with NHSE colleagues on Future Policy for Provider Collaboratives and reflect on benefits, challenges and opportunities for learning.
- Receive Cyber Security training.
- Explore a shared strategic direction.

Chair/NED Appraisals, Development and Succession Planning

On 8 February, NEDs from both LPT and NHFT came together for a briefing and discussion in advance of the externally facilitated Well-Led Review now underway. It was a useful opportunity to share experiences particularly for newer colleagues, ahead of interviews with Deloitte.

Alexander Carpenter attended an NHS NEDs event exploring how health policy might now swing towards Prevention with a former Secretary of State for Health, and in a roundtable discussion with the Director of Finance for NHSE Midlands, how Boards should be facing the current financial challenges. Hetal Parmar attended a webinar exploring the role of NHS Audit Committees in the context of some of the current challenges within the NHS.

I attended an NHSE Chairs event on 28 February which included a helpful focus on productivity and patient safety as well as providing opportunities for networking and learning from Chair colleagues.

I met with Ruth Marchington as Senior independent Director (SID) to agree our approach to my appraisal given the new Leadership Competency and Chair Appraisal Frameworks. We agreed which stakeholders should contribute to the multi-source assessment, including all Board members.

Following confirmation from Ruth that she is resigning as a NED with effect from 31 May 2024, we have started making plans for recruitment and succession. I have asked Josie Spencer to take on the role of SID and NED Lead for FTSU when Ruth leaves and handover arrangements are in progress.

We have also engaged with NHSE to advertise for a replacement NED and an Associate NED, the latter to help with future succession planning. The roles are open for applications until 1 April at the following link and have already attracted significant interest. A Stakeholder Panel and Interviews are planned to take place virtually on 19 April. [Non-executive opportunities in the NHS » Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Non-executive Director and Associate Non-executive Director \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/non-executive-opportunities-in-the-nhs-leicestershire-partnership-nhs-trust-non-executive-director-and-associate-non-executive-director/)

Proposal

The Board of Directors is invited to highlight any areas for discussion or clarification.

Decision Required

The Board of Directors is asked to:

- Note the content of this report.
- Endorse the appointment of Josie Spencer as Senior Independent Director from 1 June 2024.
- Promote the NED and Associate NED opportunities and support the recruitment process.
- Contribute to the multi-source assessment informing the Chair's appraisal.

Governance table

For Board and Board Committees:	Trust Board 26 March 2024	
Paper sponsored by:	Crishni Waring	
Paper authored by:	Crishni Waring	
Date submitted:	18 March 2024	
State which Board Committee or other forum within the Trust's governance structure, if any, have previously considered the report/this issue and the date of the relevant meeting(s):	N/A	
If considered elsewhere, state the level of assurance gained by the Board Committee or other forum i.e. assured/ partially assured / not assured:	N/A	
State whether this is a 'one off' report or, if not, when an update report will be provided for the purposes of corporate Agenda planning	Reported at every public board meeting	
STEP up to GREAT strategic alignment*:	High Standards	X
	Transformation	
	Environments	
	Patient Involvement	X
	Well Governed	X
	Reaching out	X
	Equality, Leadership, Culture	X
	Access to Services	
	Trust Wide Quality Improvement	X
Organisational Risk Register considerations:	List risk number and title of risk	N/A
Is the decision required consistent with LPT's risk appetite:	N/A	
False and misleading information (FOMI) considerations:	None	
Positive confirmation that the content does not risk the safety of patients or the public	Yes	
Equality considerations:	Yes reflects the role of our staff networks and personal commitment to inclusion	

Abbreviations:

NHSE = NHS England, CQC = Care Quality Commission

LLR = Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

ICS = Integrated Care System, ICB = Integrated Care Board

UHL = University Hospitals of Leicester, LRI = Leicester Royal Infirmary

NHFT = Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

REACH = Race, Ethnicity & Cultural Heritage, EDI = Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

CEO = Chief Executive Officer, FTSU = Freedom to Speak Up

CAMHS = Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services