

Chair's Report
Public Board
Thursday 25th January 2024

Presented for:	Discussion and information
Presented by:	Linda Pollard, Trust Chair
Author	Linda Pollard, Chair
Previous Committees	None

Our Annual Commitments for 2023/24 are:	
Effectively develop and deploy new assets (buildings, equipment, IT)	✓
Reduce healthcare associated infections	✓
Improve staff retention	✓
Deliver the financial plan	✓
Reduce average length of stay by 0.5 days per patient	✓
Achieve the Access Targets for Patients	✓
Support a culture of research	✓

Trust Risks (Type & Category)				
Level 1 Risk		Level 2 Risks	(Risk Appetite Scale)	Risk
External Risk	✓	Legal & Governance Risk We will operate the Trust in a compliance with the Law and UK Corporate Governance Code, where applicable	Averse	↔ (same)
External Risk	✓	Partnership Working Risk We will maintain well-established stakeholder partnerships which will mitigate the threats to the achievement of the organisation's strategic goals.	Open	↔ (same)
External Risk	✓	Regulatory Risk We will comply with or exceed all regulations, retain its CQC registration and always operate within the law	Averse	↔ (same)
External Risk	✓	Strategic Planning Risk We will deliver Our Vision 'to be the best for specialist and integrated care' through the delivery of a set of Strategic Goals and operating in line with Our Values	Cautious	↔ (same)

Key points	
1. To provide an update on the actions and activity of the Chair since the last Board meeting	Discussion and information

1. Visits in the Trust

We were delighted to welcome Lord James O Shaughnessy to our Centre for Laboratory Medicine on the 7th December. Lord O Shaughnessy is an internationally recognised expert on healthcare innovation and clinical sciences, and he was very interested in our plans for the future of the Centre and our ambitions for the New Hospital Build and the Innovation Village. Along with Professor Phil Wood, Chief Executive and members of the Building the Leeds Way Team we were able to share progress, next steps and also update him on the collaboration of work which is going on to ensure that the Centre is operational as soon as possible.

On the 12th December we were delighted to welcome Sovereign Health Care to the Trust. We are extremely grateful to Sovereign Health Care for their continued support, they have once again presented us with a cheque with a donation to help support our Hospital Trust and Nurses Training Grant. This year they are celebrating their 150th year anniversary and to mark this occasion they donated £15,000 which is very much appreciated. This will go towards supporting our Excellence in Practice Programme which is a pivotal training and wellbeing programme for our nurses and midwives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Russ Piper, Chief Executive who will be taking retirement this year for all his continuous support and welcome Neil McCallum into the role of Chief Executive, we look forward to continuing working with you in the future.

On the 24th January we are looking forward to welcoming Professor Charles Egbu to Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust. Professor Egbu is Vice Chancellor of Leeds Trinity University and will be a member of the Innovation Partnership Board which I Chair, he has a keen interest in Innovation and is looking forward to meeting the Team and hearing about the long term plans for the Innovation Village.

2. Non-Executive Directors

I have held meetings with NEDs as required to ensure we are aligned with the current Business needs going forward.

3. Committee Meetings

As part of my role as Chair over each 12 month period I observe one of each of our Board Assurance and Management Committee that report to Board. During January, I observed the Workforce Committee.

4. Local and Regional Network Meetings

As part of my role as Chair of LTHT, it is important to remain connected to the local and national agenda by meeting key individuals for mutual benefit. I therefore report on the following meetings which do not include my normal meetings with the Non-Executives, Executive and Senior Managers, Committee meetings or site visits, held since the last Board meeting.

3.1 Leeds Hospitals Charity

I have held my regular meeting with Esther Wakeman, Chief Executive of the Leeds Hospitals Charity to ensure that the Charity and Trust are aligned with ongoing work and future strategic developments.

I have also attended the Charity Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting where we discussed our finance and funding, retail propositions and had an update on the appeal report for the Rob Burrow MND Centre. I also attended our Charity Board Strategy Day along with Professor Phil Wood, Chief Executive and Simon Worthington, Director of Finance who presented the current and future NHS Finance and opportunities for closer alignment of both organisational strategies. This meeting was also attended by the Charity Trustees and an opportunity to come together with our new Chair Yvette Oade. Agenda items considered were; collaboration and research, funding and branding and how we take this forward in the New Year.

5. Other NHS Trusts and Organisations

I have held meetings with:

- Victoria Atkins – MP, Secretary of State for Health
- Martin Jenkins – Chair, Maggie's Centre Leeds
- General Sir Gordon Messenger – Constable of the Tower of London
- Sam Jones – DHSC
- Professor David Sebag Montefiore – Clinical Oncologist, University of Leeds
- Eve Roodhouse – Chief Officer, Culture and Economy Leeds City Council
- Johnny Townson – Project Manager, REAL Research University of York
- Melanie Donkin - Head of Strategic Talent, NHS England
- Paul Bythway – Healthcare Director, PNE UK
- Shazad Sarwar – Chair, East Lancashire Hospital NHS Trust
- Lord Patrick Carter of Coles
- Cathy Elliott – Chair, West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Em Wilkinson-Brice - National Director for People, NHSE
- Sir Julian Hartley – CEO, NHS Providers
- Brendan Brown – Chief Executive, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
- Phil Bell – CEO, The Yorkshire Society
- Lucy Cole – Programme Director WYAAT
- Gill Laidler - Yorkshire Business Women Judging Panel
- Ben Still – Managing Director West Yorkshire Combined Authority

6. National Network Meetings

NHS Providers

On the 6th December I attended NHS Providers (NHSP) Board meeting in my role as a Trustee and Deputy Chair, where we received a regular update from Sir Julian Hartley, Chief Executive NHSP, followed by an update on finance by Tom Stanford, Interim Director of Finance and IT, NHSP. Saffron Cordery, Deputy Chief Executive gave an update on the Race Equality Board Advisory Committee meeting from November and the next steps for this Committee.

On the 12th December I attended NHSP AGM, where as Deputy Chair I proposed the resolution to extend the term of office for Ron Kerr, Chair NHSP, until the end of December 2024, which was supported.

We held our first NHSP Board meeting of the Year on the 10th January, at this meeting we had our regular update from Sir Julian Hartley, Chief Executive where we discussed the feedback on the Junior Doctors strikes, operational pressures which we are all facing and the finance position going forward. We also had a discussion on improving the health of the population, the challenges we face in addressing this and how we can engage Government in moving forward.

7. Royal Horticultural Society Meeting

Along with Craige Richardson, Director of Estates and Facilities we met with Adam Frost, Presenter of BBC Gardeners Word and Alex Bergin, Senior Community Outreach Advisor for Leeds RHS and the team held a meeting to discuss their draft concept design for our Wellbeing Gardens at Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust.

8. Chairs Action (Use of Emergency Powers for urgent Decision)

Standing Orders states:

Emergency Powers and Urgent Decisions – These powers which the Board has reserved to these Standing Orders (see SO 2.23) may be used in emergencies or for an urgent decision be exercised by the Chief Executive and Chair after having consulted at least two Non-Executive Directors. The exercise of such powers by the Chief Executive and Chair shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Trust Board in public session for formal ratification. Therefore, I seek formal ratification for the following decisions that have been given Chair's action prior to this Board meeting.

Chairs Action was supported on 17 December 2023 for the contract for the appointment of a MEPH Designer in connection with the delivery of the Hospitals of the Future Project, the contract value is £6,886,689.12 (estimated) + VAT and expenses. This was reviewed at the 14 December 2023 Building Development Committee (BDC) meeting.

Chairs Action was supported by Linda Pollard, Chair, Prof Phil Wood CE (noting he is a member of BDC however was not present at the meeting on 14 December 2023 therefore is not conflicted), Suzanne Clark, Chair of Audit Committee and Mike Baker, NED and member of Finance & Performance Committee (as Gillian Taylor is a member of BDC and would be conflicted in supporting this action).

Chairs Action was provided on 10 January 2024 to ensure sufficient storage capacity to mitigate the risk to the Trust there with a requirement for is £2m ex VAT (£1.561,560 capital and £438,840 revenue annualised over five years) with confirmation the VAT is reclaimable.

Chairs Action was provided by Linda Pollard, Chair, Prof Phil Wood, Chief Executive, Gillian Taylor, Deputy Chair/Chair of Finance & Performance Committee and Suzanne Clark, Chair of Audit Committee.

9. Risk

The information received within my report support the Trust remains within its defined risk appetite.

10. Publication Under Freedom of Information Act

This paper has been made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Dame Linda Pollard

Chair

January 2024