



**Chair's Report  
Public Board  
Thursday 27 November 2025**

<b>Presented for:</b>	Discussion and Information
<b>Presented by:</b>	Antony Kildare, Trust Chair
<b>Author</b>	Antony Kildare, Trust Chair
<b>Previous Committees</b>	None

<b>Our Annual Commitments for 2025/26 are:</b>	
Recognise and act upon moments that matter to our patients	✓
Support our patients to get home a day sooner	✓
Be in the top 25% for patient experience and efficiency in outpatients	✓
Support each other to act with kindness and compassion	✓
Reduce our carbon footprint by creating greener patient pathways	✓
Support our staff to manage every £ wisely	✓
Make best use of our estate, equipment and digital assets	✓

<b>Trust Risks (Type &amp; Category)</b>				
<b>Level 1 Risk</b>		<b>Level 2 Risks</b>	<b>(Risk Appetite Scale)</b>	<b>Risk</b>
External Risk	✓	<b>Legal &amp; Governance Risk</b> We will operate the Trust in a compliance with the Law and UK Corporate Governance Code, where applicable	Averse	↔ (same)
External Risk	✓	<b>Partnership Working Risk</b> 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	✓	<b>Regulatory Risk</b> We will comply with or exceed all regulations, retain its CQC registration and always operate within the law	Averse	↔ (same)
External Risk	✓	<b>Strategic Planning Risk</b> 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)

<b>Key points</b>	
1. To provide an update to the Board.	Discussion and information

I continue to immerse myself in my ongoing induction and orientation to the Trust, getting out and about, meeting as many staff as possible across our seven sites. It's an immense privilege to meet so many talented and dedicated people but it's also essential that as Chair of the Board, I link the information that we receive in our Board meetings to the reality of staff and patient experience, which is also true for all Board colleagues in undertaking our leadership walk rounds.

I was delighted to join Brendan Brown, Chief Executive to celebrate the truly amazing achievements of many colleagues in recognition of their long service to the NHS, with 20,30, 40 and even 50 years of service. It was a very humbling experience learning of the many great stories shared about the NHS being the fabric of so many lives.

### **Opening of the Rob Burrow Centre for MND**

As Chair of LTHT, this also brings the additional role of Trustee to the Leeds Hospitals Charity. I commend the vision and desire set out by Rob and his family for a purpose-built centre, delivering patient care and research for those diagnosed with MND. I am hugely impressed by the internal and external support to Leeds Hospitals Charity for the significant fundraising that has taken place to achieve building and opening the specialist centre. I also want to recognise the very hard work of our internal Teams including the key role of the wider Clinical Team, Planning, Estates & Facilities to bring this project to fruition and deliver against tight deadlines. It's an amazing collective effort from all those involved and it will have a significant and lasting impact for our service users and their families – thank you to all.

It's great to have such an iconic building - a 'first of its kind' - here in Leeds and one which will hopefully be a blueprint for others, replicated up and down the country.

The centre was formally opened on 20 November 2025 by HRH Prince of Wales.

### **Update to Board Membership**

#### **Chief Executive**

In my September report, I updated on the recruitment plans for a substantive Chief Executive. Following lengthy discussions with the regional Director of NHS England, and the great work that Brendan Brown has delivered in his short tenure as interim Chief Executive, I have paused these recruitment plans, to enable a period of much-needed stability with continuity in the leadership of the Trust to address the immediate improvement actions required by regulators.

Further updates to changes in the Executive Team are reported in the Well-led update at agenda item 10.2(i).

#### **Non- Executive Directors (NEDs)**

I am delighted to warmly welcome new NED/ Associate NED colleagues to our Board following the recruitment campaign which took place during August and September.

Simon Le Clerc, joins the Board to address the current NED vacancy from the departure of Chris Schofield at the end of July to strengthen the Board with clinical representation.

Simon is a dual accredited consultant in Emergency Medicine and pre-hospital Emergency Medicine with over 25 years' leadership experience across the NHS, military and private healthcare. Extensive expertise in clinical governance, patient safety and strategic assurance, combined with Board and advisory roles at regional and national level. Has carried out Institute of Directors training, NED on Board members and recent governance qualifications (IoD, AICPA-CIMA, Darden School of Business). He has strong regional ties to Yorkshire and the Northeast through long-standing NHS and Air Ambulance Service. He is committed to improving quality and safety and is married to a practising midwife in the Northeast.

Ricky Singh joins the Board as an Associate NED which is part of our succession plan for the Chair of the Audit Committee, with Gillian's term expiring early 2027. This recruitment process was carried out jointly with NHS England (NHSE).

Ricky will formally commence in role in the new year and undertake his induction programme during November and December. He has performed a number of Chief Finance Officer roles in the commercial sector with strengths in strategic financial leadership, governance expertise and transformation. He now lives in Leeds and was originally born in Yorkshire. This will be Ricky's first NED role, hence the opportunity for 12 months development through the succession plan, before NHSE convert to a full NED in due course.

Amrit Riat is a local GP, NED (Trustee) at Thackray Museum of Medicine and school governor, living in Leeds, who has been appointed as an Associate NED for 12 months as a development opportunity. She brings a wealth of experience with lived experience along with service insight to supporting patients within the community which will be valuable to the left shift and neighbourhood models of care within the NHS ten-year plan. Amrit will also formally commence in January with her induction programme.

### **Working with Regulators**

We continue to work with regulators and within the Board agenda we will give transparent updates of our work and progress.

In late August, NHSE issued a new requirement for the Trust, the Provider Capability Assessment. This is a self-assessment by the Board against a defined set of criteria reflecting on compliance (full, partial or not at all) against a range of standards. The intention is that this will complement the National Operating Framework (NoF) which provides the core data relating to a Trust's actual performance, to rank compliance ratings under segment criteria. LTHT in July was formally ranked in segment 3 against NOF.

NHSE issued tight deadlines for the Board submission against the Provider Capability Assessment, and in light of the intervention of regulators, the Board's self-assessment was non-compliance. More details of the criteria can be found at the following link [NHS England » Assessing provider capability: guidance for NHS trust boards](#)

Brendan Brown, Chief Executive and I were called to a midyear review meeting with the regional Team, in line with all other NHS providers. This was an overall discussion on the Trust's performance about which we await formal feedback.

### **Publication Under Freedom of Information Act**

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

**Antony Kildare, Chair**  
**November 2025**