

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Trust's Board of Directors held in Public on
Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 1:30pm
via MS Teams

Present:	<p>Mark Bailey - Non-executive Director Suzy Brain England OBE - Chair of the Board (Chair) Hazel Brand - Non-executive Director Mark Day - Non-executive Director Jo Gander - Non-executive Director Dr Emyr Jones - Non-executive Director Karen Jessop - Chief Nurse Zara Jones - Deputy Chief Executive Zoe Lintin - Chief People Officer Dr Nick Mallaband - Acting Executive Medical Director Lucy Nickson - Non-executive Director Richard Parker OBE - Chief Executive Jon Sargeant - Chief Financial Officer Kath Smart - Non-executive Director Denise Smith - Chief Operating Officer</p>
In attendance:	<p>Fiona Dunn - Director of Corporate Affairs / Company Secretary Lois Mellor - Director of Midwifery Angela O'Mara - Deputy Company Secretary (Minutes) Emma Shaheen - Director of Communications & Engagement</p>
Public in attendance:	<p>Gina Holmes - Staff Side Annette Johnson - Public Governor Doncaster Lynne Logan - Public Governor Doncaster Andrew Middleton - Public Governor Bassetlaw Jo Posnett – Partner Governor Lynne Schuller - Public Governor Bassetlaw</p>

Apologies:

P24/02/A1 **Welcome, apologies for absence and declaration of interest (Verbal)**

The Chair of the Board welcomed everyone to the virtual Board of Directors meeting, including governors and observers. No apologies were received, or declarations of interest made.

P24/02/A2 **Actions from Previous Meetings**

There were no active actions.

P24/02/B1 **Chair's Assurance Log – Quality & Effectiveness Committee (enclosure B1)**

Jo Gander, Chair of the Quality & Effectiveness Committee provided an overview of the four quadrants of the Chair's assurance log, positive assurance, areas of major works, areas of focus and decisions made.

To address an area of concern the Acting Executive Medical Director would provide an assurance report to the next Committee meeting on progress and next steps towards the full implementation of the digital patient pathway tracker.

A comprehensive report by the Head Biomedical Scientist provided assurance relating to inspections by the Human Tissue Authority and the national accreditation body, United Kingdom Accreditation Service. In addition, the Trust had undertaken a self-assessment based upon the phase one recommendations of Sir Jonathan Michael's independent inquiry into the David Fuller case. To clarify the scope of the self-assessment the Committee recommended the narrative be updated to reflect activity had been considered across all relevant hospital sites. Future recommendations and assessment from phase two of the inquiry would be shared with the Committee for oversight and assurance to the Board. The Acting Executive Medical Director and Non-executive Director, Emyr Jones had recently visited the mortuary and this would form part of the annual programme of Board visits going forwards.

The Board:

- ***Noted and took assurance from the Chair's Assurance Log***

P24/02/B2 **Maternity & Neonatal Update (Enclosure B2)**

The report provided an overview of the progress made against the national standards within maternity and neonatal services. The Director of Midwifery brought the Board's attention to the key highlights.

An increase in the number of stillbirths had been seen in January 2024, with three cases reported; despite this, the annual adjusted rate remained in line with expectations. No specific learning points had been identified and as previously confirmed an external peer review would be undertaken by a Local Maternity and Neonatal System.

An increase in the number of neonatal admissions related to respiratory conditions had been seen, potentially linked to a reduction in the take-up of antenatal steroids. Work to raise awareness, with the support of the Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership, was ongoing supported by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists educational literature.

The outcome of the Year 5 submission for the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts was awaited.

In response to a question from Non-executive Director, Kath Smart, the Director of Midwifery confirmed that the Terms of Reference for the peer review had been agreed, to include quarter four data and work was expected to commence on 9 April 2024.

In respect of learning from perinatal mortality reviews where it was identified that English was not the first language, the Director of Midwifery confirmed the ongoing use of the translation and interpretation service. In addition, the Lead Midwife for Equity & Equality worked closely with the Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership to promote accessibility of services.

The Board:

- ***Noted and took assurance from the Maternity & Neonatal Update***

P24/02/C1 Chair's Assurance Log – Finance & Performance Committee (enclosure C1)

Following the Committee meeting of 22 February 2024, the Chair of the Finance & Performance Committee provided a verbal update of the Chair's quadrant report, a written copy of which would be provided in due course.

The Committee was assured by the current year financial position and forecast to meet or improve the Trust's deficit plan. In the absence of national guidance progress was reported on operational and financial business plans with expectations of a challenging year ahead.

Delivery of the national operational standards remained largely unchanged when compared to the previous month's performance and in line with challenges seen nationally. Improvement trajectories were in place, improved grip and control could be seen and a fully recruited senior leadership team was now in place.

In terms of decisions made, confidential procurement matters would be considered further at the confidential Board of Directors meeting.

The Board:

- ***Noted and took assurance from the Chair's Assurance Log***

P24/02/C2 Finance Update (Enclosure C2)

The Chief Financial Officer reported a month ten deficit of £184k, £184k favourable to plan and forecast.

The year to date deficit was £24.2m, which was £1.0m favourable to plan and £0.7m favourable to forecast. A year end deficit of £25.3m was forecast, £1.5m ahead of the financial plan and forecast. The key risks to delivery being the impact of industrial action and the ability to earn elective recovery funding.

Capital spend in month ten was £6.4m, against a plan of £7.5m, the year to date position was £34.6m against a plan of £40.7m. The Trust was on target to deliver its year end capital plan.

The cash balance at the end of January was £12.4m, a decrease of £0.3m in month. The Trust had requested an additional £4m of Public Dividend Capital (PDC) cash support.

In month, the Trust had delivered £0.8m of savings against the plan of £2.6m; year to date the Trust had delivered £15.3m of savings against the plan of £17m. Delivery at year end was forecast to be £17.4m, one third of which was non-recurrent.

In response to a question from Non-executive Director, Lucy Nickson the Chief Financial Officer confirmed cash support was subject to a 3.5% charge.

The Board:

- ***Noted the Finance Update***

P24/02/D1 Any other business (to be agreed with the Chair prior to the meeting)

No items of other business were received.

P24/02/D2 Governor Questions regarding the business of the meeting (10 minutes) *

No governor questions were received prior to the meeting, any questions post meeting should be directed to the Trust Board Office.

P24/02/D3 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2024 (Enclosure D3)

- ***The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2024***

P24/02/D4 Date and time of next meeting (Verbal)

Date: Tuesday 26 March 2024
Time: 09:30am
Venue: MS Teams

P24/02/D5 Withdrawal of Press and Public (Verbal)

The Board:

- ***Resolved that representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest.***

P24/02/E Close of meeting (Verbal)

The meeting closed at 13.59



Suzy Brain England OBE
Chair of the Board
26 March 2024