

Chair's Board Report

Trust Board paper E

Board Membership

Welcome to Richard Mitchell, our new Chief Executive who started at the beginning of October. Richard knows UHL well from when he was the Chief Operating Officer and also led Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for four years.

I am also delighted we appointed Jon Melbourne as our Chief Operating Officer. Jon comes from University College Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust where he was Director of Operations. He will start in early February. We are also interviewing for a Chief Financial Officer next week.

We will be interviewing to appoint four Non-Executive Directors at the end of November/early December. We have had a considerable number of applicants and I am hopeful that we will be able to appoint with those appointed starting early in the New Year.

I would like to thank those Non-Executive Directors whose terms of office come to an end. Ian Crowe has been a Non-Executive Director since 2013 and over more than eight years has made a huge contribution, chairing the Boards Quality and Outcomes Committee and the Performance, People and Process Committee. He has been a highly visible Board member, frequently attending events and I know has also been very supportive to the Executives. He has also considerably strengthened the links between UHL and the forces.

Andrew Johnson was appointed in 2015. During his six years he has brought his considerable skills and commercial understanding to the Board and the Trust. He has chaired the Finance and Investment Committee and is also chair of UHL Holdings Limited which has sought to maximise the benefits to patients and the Trust from collaboration with the private sector and adopting a more commercial approach where this was appropriate. He spent considerable time visiting services and meeting staff and patients before Covid restricted these activities.

Kathy Gillatt and Ian Orrell were appointed as Associate Non-Executive Directors in January this year to strengthen the Boards financial expertise. Both have played a key role over the last year and I am very grateful to them for their support and counsel during a very challenging year.

On behalf of the Board I would also like to thank Debra Mitchell who as Acting Chief Operating Officer oversaw the response of UHL to the Covid pandemic and led with great dedication, compassion and judgement during the most challenging time the NHS has faced. Her caring for both patients and staff have been a vital aspect of UHL's response.

I would also like to thank Simon Lazarus who provided safe and very experienced and effective financial leadership at a time when the financial governance and management arrangements required a robust and rigorous approach. He leaves the Trust with much strengthened financial management and a clearer understanding of the financial challenges facing UHL.

Confidential Trust Board meetings

The Trust Board met in confidential sessions on 2 September 2021 and 7 October 2021. At these meetings a total of 12 contract awards were approved which exceeded the threshold for approval by the Finance and Investment Committee. The details of these contract awards are commercially sensitive but they broadly related to:-

- Lease cars;
- Renal consumables;
- Payroll contract extension;
- Benchtop protein analyser;
- ECMO perfusion;
- Extension of radiotherapy maintenance contract;
- Endoscopy consumables and associated products;
- Consumables for Covid testing;
- Theatre surgery consumables;
- Products used by the respiratory and sleep services;
- Temporary theatre facility and recovery ward, and
- Replacement Linear Accelerator.

Budget and Spending Review 2021

The Chancellors Budget and Spending Review 2021 confirmed additional finance for the NHS including the 1.25% Health and Social Care Levy and capital to support the development of diagnostic services, surgical hubs and digital technology. These initiatives are all in line with the Trust clinical and reconfiguration strategies and we will be looking to develop our plans and, where possible accelerate some of our initiatives to support and enhance the recovery of planned services.

Leicester and Leicestershire Integrated Care System

From April 2022 the LLR Integrated Care Board will become a statutory body leading integration across the NHS and social care. The ICB will bring the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities within the NHS, connecting to partnership arrangements at system and place.

Progress on establishing the ICB is well advanced and appointments to the Board will be made over the next few months. UHL has an important role to play working in partnership with other health and care organisations in (i) improving outcomes in population health and healthcare, (ii) tackling inequalities in outcomes, experience and access, (iii) enhancing productivity and value for money, and (iv), helping the NHS support broader social and economic development. This partnership working will become an increasingly important way in which the Trust operates.

Around the Trust

Over the last few months, I have been able to visit services and meet with clinicians and others on all three of our main sites including imaging, general surgery, A and E, orthopaedics, or palliative care. I have been hugely impressed with the commitment, determination and innovation of the staff I met to provide the best possible service during what continues to be very challenging times. I am also very aware that the last year and a half has taken a toll on staff across the Trust and the wider health and care system. Talking to staff there are small things we can do which will make working life easier as well

as continuing to support staff through our health and wellbeing programme. I know that the Board, Richard and the Executive Team are very focussed on ensuring that the trust provides as much a support as possible to staff, volunteers and others working at UHL.

Religious Festivals

This is the time of year when there are a number of religious festivals and it is very uplifting to see a degree of normality returning to the Diwali celebrations. So whatever your faith, on behalf of the Board I would like to wish you the very best and an enjoyable and happy time with your families and friends.

John MacDonald
Interim Chair