

# Chairman's Note

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Trust Board paper C

Dear Colleagues

We live in uncertain times and at the current time we have a new mission. Put simply, this is to manage the outbreak of COVID-19 in order to minimise the loss of life. All of us are members of our local communities and we must do the best for them.

This is a fast moving situation and we will be incredibly busy as time goes by which will put additional pressure on all of us. I am sure that staff will stay flexible, cheerful and willing to adapt both to an environment of constant change and in the face of requests made of them in order to respond to this. This is also an opportunity for all of us to consider what more we can personally do in these difficult circumstances.

Although the period ahead will test our values, I know that we are all up for that challenge.

Some of you will be aware that our Chief Executive, John Adler, has been ill and not at work for the last fortnight. I have had confirmation from John that he will not be able to return in the near future. I am sure you will join me in wishing him well and in extending him our very best wishes. To avoid any unnecessary concern or speculation, I should make clear that John's sickness absence is not related to COVID-19.

I can confirm that during John's absence, Rebecca Brown, our Chief Operating Officer will be the Acting Chief Executive. She and the Executive Team will be supported by me and all members of the Trust Board.

The Trust Board has refocused our work to oversee and lead the Trust's response to COVID-19 whilst keeping a continued focus on other key areas. Our top priority will be, as always, the safety and well-being of our patients and staff. There is an extremely useful email briefing sent to all staff daily.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I want to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to all of our staff for the role they are playing, whether in a direct patient facing role or otherwise, in looking after our patients and colleagues during these difficult times. Their efforts and resilience are greatly appreciated.

Regards

Karamjit Singh  
Chairman, UHL