

# Chairman's Note

## Trust Board paper D

Dear Board Member,

I would again like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for the commitment and professionalism they continue to show both in treating Covid 19 patients within our hospitals and in maintaining the pace of vaccinations internally and for the staff of our partner organisations. Whilst it is pleasing to note the slowing pace of community infections and hospital admissions nationally and regionally, it is also the case that Trust such as ours will continue to have relatively high numbers of patients in ICU and ECMO settings. I think all of us appreciate the ongoing pressure this will cause for our permanent staff there as well as the continued assistance they are receiving from other staff elsewhere in the Trust who have been assigned there. This will inevitably have implications for the timetabling of the large scale restoration of non Covid-19 services and which will also need to take continuous account of enhanced infection prevention processes. The final point I would make here is that a continued focus on the health and well being of our staff is essential. They have been under sustained pressure since the outbreak of the pandemic last year and are our most precious resource.

Last week we had the first meeting of the new group that will bring together the leaders of the health and social care system. This comes against the backdrop of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) publishing its legislative proposals for a Health and Social Care Bill last month and on the same day, NHSI/E issuing their response to the feedback received from the Integrating Care engagement exercise. It should be noted that DHSC has accepted all five recommendations made by NHSI/E including a two part statutory Integrated Care System (ICS) model with an ICS model NHS Body and Health and Care Partnership. I know from my own membership of the NHS Providers Reference Group focusing on these matters that the next few weeks will be intensive in the run up to the introduction of the Bill (which will give statutory form to ICS) perhaps as early as May when the new parliamentary session begins.

In my own comments at the meeting last week I drew attention to two recent reports focusing on existing ICS arrangements namely in Surrey and Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes. I pointed out that we could learn from some of the challenges that were identified such as the importance of institutional and personal relationships for promoting new processes and structures; to ensure that the ICS bureaucracy was as lean as possible and to avoid repeat conversations involving the same people; an emphasis on subsidiarity so that each partner organisation focused on its own remit; that there was a clear focus on tangible outcomes which attracted staff commitment, patient satisfaction and public support to the changes; and an inclusive conversation which ensured this.

Turning to the Board itself, I am very pleased to announce that Ian Orrell is our second Associate Director who has been appointed to the Board. Ian is a CIPFA qualified accountant and has previously held senior executive roles within local government. He is currently the Independent Chair of the Audit Committee for Northampton Council (from which he will be stepping down shortly) and in that role has dealt with some challenging issues. His senior financial and governance experience will be a further enhancement of the existing expertise around the Board table.

I would also like to report the resignation of Martin Traynor OBE, previously Deputy Chairman and Non-Executive Director, from the Trust Board with effect from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his past service.

As colleagues know I announced my forthcoming resignation from the Board last week. This has not been an easy personal decision to make because I have very much enjoyed this role, but I feel it is the right one for the organisation at this point in time. For the record I have attached the communication that was sent to stakeholders and the press release that was issued. My last working day in the Trust will be Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with the next two weeks upto 30<sup>th</sup> April taken as outstanding leave.

We need to see a new Chair appointed who will then be able to take forward the appointment process for a permanent new Chief Executive. I think it is an obvious point to make but in her role as Acting Chief Executive and in leading the organisation, Rebecca Brown has not made me or other Board colleagues feel that the sustained operational pressures of the past twelve months have not been responded to appropriately.

I will report orally to the Board on any other developments that may occur during the period following the writing and publication of this report.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Board meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Regards

**Karamjit Singh**  
**Chairman, UHL**

# A message for our stakeholders

**NHS**  
University Hospitals  
of Leicester  
NHS Trust



*Caring at its best*

## Karamjit Singh CBE to step down as Chair of the UHL Trust Board

Today we share the news that our Chair, Karamjit Singh CBE, has announced he will step down from his position on 16 April 2021.

Karamjit has served as Chair since 2014 and has made a huge contribution to our organisation, the NHS and local communities. His career spans almost 50 years of dedicated public service across many diverse roles at local, regional and national level.

Interim arrangements will be announced shortly while the process for a permanent appointment begins.

Commenting on his decision to step down, Mr Singh said: “My eight year term of office is due to finish next year but it makes sense for me to step down a year early. The Trust needs to appoint a permanent new Chief Executive and that should be done by a new Chair. Having provided important leadership continuity whilst the Board has addressed financial control issues, it is time to allow someone else to fill this role that I have enjoyed so much.

“I am hugely proud of what we have achieved since I took up the role in 2014, not least over the last twelve months when staff across the Trust have done such a fantastic job to meet the challenges of an unprecedented global pandemic. I am also proud that during my time as Chair, we have secured a much needed £450 million capital investment to develop our Trust over the next few years. That is a huge vote of confidence in our Trust and our staff. “

Acting chief executive Rebecca Brown added: “Over the last seven years, Karamjit has been a champion for our Trust values, for high quality patient care and for the diversity of our staff and our communities. His insight and passion have been evident in his leadership and he will leave a lasting legacy after his decades of dedicated public service. He will be greatly missed.

“During his time with us there have been many achievements to be proud of including our move to a ‘Good’ rating from the Care Quality Commission and the securing of significant financial investment which will see a once in a generation transformation of our services and hospital buildings.

“Karamjit has been a steady hand in turbulent times and I would like to thank him, on behalf of the whole team here at the Trust, for all he has contributed to our hospitals and to our local communities. I would also like to add my thanks for the support and guidance he has offered to me personally. We wish him all the very best for his future endeavours.”

We will share news regarding the interim arrangements as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with [Rebecca](#) or [Karamjit](#).

Thank you.

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24 February 2021



Chair of University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Karamjit Singh CBE, has today announced he will step down from his position on 16 April 2021.

Mr Singh has served as Chair since 2014 and has made a huge contribution to Leicester's hospitals, the NHS and local communities. His career spans almost 50 years of dedicated public service across many diverse roles at local, regional and national level.

Interim arrangements will be announced shortly while the process for a permanent appointment begins.

Commenting on his decision to step down, Mr Singh said: "My eight year term of office is due to finish next year but it makes sense for me to step down a year early. The Trust needs to appoint a permanent new Chief Executive and that should be done by a new Chair. Having provided important leadership continuity whilst the Board has addressed financial control issues, it is time to allow someone else to fill this role that I have enjoyed so much.

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Acting chief executive Rebecca Brown, commented: "Over the last seven years, Karamjit has been a champion for our Trust values, for high quality patient care and for the diversity of our staff and our communities. His insight and passion have been evident in his leadership and he will leave a lasting legacy after his decades of dedicated public service. He will be greatly missed.

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