

Chair's Board Report

Trust Board paper D

I have continued to meet people from across the Trust, the wider LLR system and from the universities. I am very grateful for the warm welcome, the time people have given me and the openness of our conversations. There are some fantastic services provided by the Trust and across the system and on behalf of the Board would like to thank staff and volunteers at UHL for their commitment at a time that continues to be very challenging.

As Board members will know, Rebecca has decided not to apply for the Chief Executive post. Rebecca will continue to be the Acting Chief Executive until a new Chief Executive is in post. I would like to acknowledge the huge role Rebecca has played and I think we were very lucky that Rebecca agreed to take on the role. She had led the Trust brilliantly through Covid. In light of this we have started the process of appointing a substantive Chief Executive with interviews scheduled for the end of June. Hopefully we will have a new Chief Executive in post by the Autumn.

I would like to congratulate the University of Leicester on their ranking of the Medical School in the Shanghai Ranking. The Leicester Medical School was ranked 18th in the world and 5th in the UK. Our partnership as part of the Leicester Academic Health Partnership is a very important partnership where Leicester is a leading player in research and the development of the next generation of health and care staff. We are very fortunate to have a world leading Medical School as part of that partnership.

Over the last few weeks, I have had discussions with Board members on how we continue to improve the effectiveness of the Board and to ensure we have effective and agile governance. Covid has shown the importance of getting this balance right. This programme will include both changes in the way the Board organises its work as well as an ongoing Board development programme. These proposals are the subject of a paper later on the agenda.

As part of these changes, it is critical that we are open and transparent. We will be bringing an integrated performance report to the Board which will also provide the public with an overview of how the Trust is performing. There will continue to be reports on the work of the committees and I have requested that a strategy be developed to enhance engagement with patients, carers and local communities.

Members will be aware that the Trust faces considerable challenges. We recently met with the NHS Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive of the NHS. This was a helpful and supportive discussion. We are in the process of developing a Financial Recovery Plan, working closely with our partners in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care System and the Plan will be coming to the Board later in the summer.

John MacDonald
Interim Chair