

Meeting title:	Trust Board (public session)				Paper C
Date of the meeting:	6 October 2022				
Title:	Chair's Report				
Report presented by:	John MacDonald – Trust Chair				
Report written by:	John MacDonald – Trust Chair				
Action – this paper is for:	Decision/Approval		Assurance		Update X

1. New Government

UHL, in common with the wider NHS continues to face considerable operational, workforce and financial challenges whilst patients are continuing to wait too long. We are however beginning to see the huge work and efforts of staff resulting in some improvements; ambulance waits have reduced over July and August and reductions in long waiters.

The priorities announced by the Secretary of State for Health (of reducing ambulance waits and the backlog of patients waiting to be diagnosed and treated, improving care and supporting the recruitment of doctors and dentists) are areas we are, and will continue to focus on. As important is our drive to support our staff, whether that is with the cost of living or in the workplace.

The outlook for the next couple of years will be very challenging given inflation, cost of living and the financial outlook following the Government announcements on its plans to provide support to meet energy costs, encourage investment and growth through tax cuts and increased borrowing as a result. Sterling's fall may also discourage some people from wanting to come to the UK to work.

The Board will over the next two months carefully consider where we put our focus.

2. BAPIO Conference

I, together with a number of other people from UHL, attended a national conference on Locally Employed Doctors: Breaking Down Barriers. The Conference run by the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) was held in Leicester and a number of doctors from UHL are very active members. These doctors together with a number of others from other countries are a vital and significant part of the NHS workforce and underpin the care the NHS provides. However, their experience varies and BAPIO launched a Charter for this group of doctors to ensure they receive support, training and to reduce the variation in the experience of the doctors. We will be adopting this Charter and will bring back to the Board a plan to make this happen.

3. 2020/21 Accounts Signed Off

The Board approved the 2020/21 Annual Accounts, and these are presented later on the agenda. This is a major step forward in addressing the concerns that emerged three years ago. This means we are nearly up to date on the auditing of Annual Accounts and the 2021/22 Annual Accounts will be presented later in the year. I would like to thank the Finance Department, the Chief Finance Office Lorraine Hooper and Mike Williams, Chair of the Audit Committee for the huge amount of time and effort that has enabled us to get to where we are.

4. Meeting with System Partners

I met with the new Chair of EMAS, Karen Tomlinson and we had a very useful discussion. There is clearly a strong relationship between UHL and EMAS and we are committed to continuing on the close working established under Pauline Tagg, who as Chair of EMAS did so much to foster the relationship.

The Chair and CEO of the LLR ICB hosted a session with non-executive directors from the ICB, UHL and Leicestershire Partnership Trust where we shared the strategies of the three organisations and how we were developing these, and experience of system working over the last few years.

5. Board and Organisational Development

The Board continues to develop and strengthen following the considerable changes over the last nine months. Our attention over the next few months will be on ensuring we have clarity on the risks, challenges and opportunities as well as how we develop the strategy for the next five years. In this we are working closely with the Clinical Directors and other senior clinical staff. In addition we are looking to see what support and development we can give the Clinical Management Groups to enable a devolved, clinically led and streamlined organisation to lead the Trust through the next few years.