

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PART 2 (COMMITTEE SESSION)**

**Notes taken from the formal minutes of the meeting of  
Wednesday 27 January 2021  
via MS Teams**

*In light of the Government's guidance to Stay at Home; Save Lives and our concern for the public's health, as well as that of our patients and staff, we have taken the decision to stand-down all public Board meetings until further notice. This is also in line with guidance from NHS England/Improvement. However, we remain committed to ensuring the Trust operates in an open and transparent way, and therefore we will provide summaries of the minutes of the closed Board meetings on the hospital's website.*

- Members Present:** Mark Addison (Chairman)  
Sue Atkinson (Non-Executive Director) (Senior Independent Director)  
Margaret Blankson (Non-Executive Director)  
Judy Gillow (Non-Executive Director) (Vice Chair)  
Paul Goddard (Chief Finance Officer)  
Alastair Hutchison (Medical Director)  
Emma Hallett (Deputy Director of Workforce)  
Nick Johnson (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Strategy, Transformation and Partnerships)  
Nicky Lucey (Director of Nursing and Quality)  
Patricia Miller (Chief Executive Officer)  
Ian Metcalfe (Non-Executive Director)  
Inese Robotham (Chief Operating Officer)  
Stephen Slough (Chief Information Officer)  
Richard Sim (divisional Director, Family and Surgical Services Division)  
Stephen Tilton (Non-Executive Director)  
David Underwood (Non-Executive Director)
- In Attendance:** Jo Hartley (Head of Midwifery)  
Trevor Hughes (Head of Corporate Governance)  
Natalie Violet (Business Manager)
- Apologies:** None

The Chair welcomed Margaret Blankson, new Non-Executive Director, to the meeting and acknowledged the considerable work of staff throughout the pandemic; recording the Board's gratitude and respect for their continued professionalism and compassion.

Inese Robotham provided an update on the impact of the pandemic locally; noting mutual aid arrangements with system partners and that the number of COVID positive cases appeared to be levelling nationally. The Vaccination programme continued at pace and the level of take up was reported to be good.

Board committee chairs summarised their discussions and highlighted the work being developed to ensure safest staffing in light of the increasing pressures across the local healthcare system and to strengthen arrangements for children with diabetes. National guidance was awaited on national finance arrangements that would support business planning in the forthcoming year.

The Board considered the longer term impact of the pandemic and was clear it was vital for staff to have the opportunity for a recuperative break before addressing the recovery and normal operation of services.

The Board also noted the Trust's response to the Ockenden Report; a review of Maternity services nationally, and was assured that the Trust's services operated in an open and transparent manner and that service user feedback was positive.

The Board approved interim governance arrangements that would release capacity to address the increasing operational pressures and retain focus on key decision making and management of risks.

Following the circulation of the relevant papers and prior discussion at respective Board committees, the Board took the following items without discussion:

- Corporate Risk Register
- COVID Vaccination – Legal and Accountability Framework
- DCH Charity Update
- Emergency Department Project Update
- Integrated Emergency, Community and Primary Care Hub Strategic Outline Case
- Freedom to Speak Up Report
- Integrated Care System Consultation response.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via video-conferencing. This meeting will not be open to the public, but notes will be made available after the meeting on the hospital's website.