

Annual General Meeting and Annual Members' Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 29 September 2022
Lecture Theatre, Dorset County Hospital, and via MS Teams

AGM22/001 Welcome

Mark Addison, the Trust Chair, welcomed attendees to the first in person Annual General Meeting in three years. The Chair outlined that it had been hoped that 2021/22 would have been a year of recovery and a chance to reduce the backlog of elective waiting lists and the Trust had indeed reduced the numbers of those who waited the longest. The Chair drew attention to the stronger relationships with system partners and innovative ways of working, such as the South Walks House development, and thanked the hospital staff who continued to work tirelessly throughout the last year.

The Chair reflected on the challenges the Trust had faced over the last year, most notably continued waves of Covid-19, and the number of patients in the hospital awaiting discharge on to onward packages of care. Positively, the Dorset Integrated Care System, which came in to force on 1st July, would help address health inequalities and promote public health. The Trust and Dorset HealthCare had made the decision to appoint a joint Chair and joint Chief Executive Officer, to help the organisations work more closely together and to strengthen partnerships.

The Chair conveyed his thanks to Nick Johnson, Interim Chief Executive, and to members of the Board who had left in the last year: Paul Goddard, Chief Finance Officer, Dawn Harvey, Chief People Officer, Stephen Slough, Chief Information Officer, and Nicky Lucey, Chief Nursing Officer, who would be leaving next month. The Chair also extended his thanks to Judy Gillow, Non-Executive Director (NED), for her extraordinary commitment to the Trust and for her support over the years, as well to all his NED colleagues. The Chair further thanked the Trust volunteers and the Friends and the Governors, particularly David Cove in his role as Lead Governor.

AGM22/002 Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 Review of the year

Nick Johnson, Interim Chief Executive Officer, highlighted that the last year had been characterised by extreme challenge, change and transition, and that the Trust was only now beginning to understand what the 'new normal' after Covid-19 would look like. Looking ahead, the Trust was facing challenges of increasing demand, limited workforce and finances, but positives of greater collaboration with health and social care colleagues.

Nick further updated the meeting on the continued focus on patient safety and quality, developments across the site, and the positive ranking of the emergency care the Trust provided. He extended his thanks to the Chair for his support, to the Governors for their commitment to and passion for the Trust, and to all the hospital staff for their continued hard work.

Quality Account

Emma Hoyle, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, spoke to the quality of care delivered over the last year and highlighted the hospital's numerous achievements. She noted the improvements in patient experience and patient safety and highlighted the digital developments that support this work. Emma further noted the focus on research throughout the pandemic and thanked staff for keeping the hospital and patients safe.

Annual Accounts 2021/22

Claire Abraham, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, provided an overview of the financial results of the Trust, noting a small deficit of £53,000 against a break-even target. She gave details of the Trust's income, expenditure, and investments, paying particular attention to the unprecedented funding regime in 2021/22 due to Covid-19.

AGM22/003 Recovering Services After the Pandemic: Orthopaedic Outpatient Assessment Centre

Adam Savin, Associate Director of Performance, outlined the development of the orthopaedic outpatient assessment centre at South Walks House, against a backdrop of growth in elective waiting lists. The site was conceived and developed in eight weeks and brought together physiotherapists, pain clinics, Livewell, and consultants to allow patients to be seen by as many clinicians as necessary in one outpatient appointment. Adam outlined the positive feedback from and outcomes for patients, the improvement in waiting lists, and the national recognition the scheme had gained. The Trust had bid for additional funding to further develop the scheme and awaited the outcome.

Adam shared a video which showcased the space at South Walks House.

AGM22/004 Recruiting our Future Workforce

Elaine Hartley, Head of Education, Learning and Development, and Jacqueline Quinn, Apprenticeships and Widening Participation Lead, provided an overview of the work of the education team in providing apprenticeships as part of the Trust's Social Value pledge. Jacqueline outlined the background to the apprenticeship scheme and noted the number of staff currently undertaking apprenticeships at a range of qualification levels.

Elaine outlined the Trust's utilisation of the Kickstart scheme, noting that it was the only NHS organisation in the southwest to take part in the

scheme. The scheme offered local young people at risk of long-term unemployment a chance to join the world of work. 28 of the 35 young people who took part in the scheme had now started a career with the Trust, with a number undertaking further development through apprenticeships. The scheme was no longer active, but it had encouraged the Trust to think differently about recruitment and various other schemes had been developed, such as work experience, scholarships, and placements.

AGM22/005

Lead Governor's Report

Dr David Cove, Lead Governor, reported on the activities undertaken by the Council of Governors during the year 2021/22 and highlighted the spirit of openness with which meetings were conducted. He noted that the Governors had been particularly impressed by the management and clinical care provided throughout Covid-19 and that the hospital's reputation was indicative of the dedication and enthusiasm of staff. Reflecting on the challenges the Trust faced, Dr Cove said that the Trust was fortunate to have an outstanding Board of Executive and Non-Executive Directors under the capable leadership of the Chair and CEO. Dr Cove thanked those Governors who had retired in the reporting year and noted that Kathryn Harrison would take over as Lead Governor from the end of the month. A copy of the Lead Governor's report is available on request.

AGM22/006

Questions from Members and the Public

Commander Anthony Holt asked about the Trust's maternity services, noting that a number of Trusts nationally were struggling. Emma Hoyle noted that the Head of Midwifery was working closely with the Ockenden review to ensure the Trust was compliant and this activity was reported to the Quality Committee on a monthly basis and escalated to the Trust Board, the papers of which were available on the Trust website. Dr Cove added that he had also been concerned and had spent an hour with the Head of Midwifery and was assured that all aspects of the Ockenden report were examined locally and that the Trust was not experiencing the same risks as those raised in the report. Sue Atkinson, Lead NED for Ockenden, echoed the work ongoing in the maternity service and that the NEDs were assured of the work and systems in place to ensure good outcomes for patients.

Commander Holt further asked what the plans were for the former Damers School site (now known as West Annex). Paul Lewis, Deputy Director of Strategy, Transformation and Partnerships, referred to the developments on the hospital site. The emergency department and intensive care unit would take over the space where the school stood and the administrative staff who currently worked on the site would be moved to different offices.

Commander Holt asked what the policy was on staff wearing uniforms outside of the hospital. Emma Hoyle confirmed that this was not allowed

under Trust policy; this was reinforced on a regular basis by hospital-wide communications and staff were challenged when seen in uniform outside the hospital. However, it was noted that there were other healthcare organisations in the area and the Trust was unable to comment on those individuals.

Commander Holt finally noted that the incinerator chimney could produce a strong noxious smell on warm nights with low wind and asked for confirmation that it did not infringe on any environmental pollution regulations. Nick Johnson understood that a similar query had recently been raised and responded to. However, he was not aware of the answer at this time and would follow this up with Commander Holt outside of the meeting.

AGM22/007**Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.