

Annual General Meeting and Annual Members' Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 26 September 2022
Lecture Theatre, Dorset County Hospital, and via MS Teams

AGM23/001

Welcome

David Clayton-Smith, the Trust Chair, welcomed attendees to the Annual General and Annual Members Meeting for 2022/23, noting that this was his first AGM as Trust Chair having joined in May 2023. The meeting would reflect on the Trust's highlights, quality, performance and finance for the last financial year, but would also look forward to ongoing projects, such as the New Hospital Programme and the Working Together Programme.

Reviewing the Annual Report had allowed the Chair to learn about the organisation. This and spending time with staff since his arrival had made it clear that everyone had worked incredibly hard in 2022/23 and continued to do so. The Chair reflected on the ongoing pressures facing the Trust and the wider NHS, and the way in which the Trust continued to build an environment in which staff could thrive.

The Chair reflected that he and Matthew Bryant, as Joint Chair and Joint Chief Executive Officer respectively, were endeavouring to be visible around the Trust and to meet as many colleagues as possible, to learn as much about the Trust as possible.

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Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23

Review of the year

Matthew Bryant, Chief Executive Officer, noted that he celebrated the successes of the last year for the teams at Dorset County Hospital (DCH), as he had joined the Trust in March 2023, and thanked Nick Johnson, who had been Interim CEO prior to his arrival.

Matthew highlighted the key successes of the last year, including development of new clinical spaces in Charlton Down, South Walks House, and the completion of the Emergency Department (ED) refurbishment, as well as clinical successes in Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation, the best results nationally in the CQC survey of maternity services, and an award for the orthotics department's safe restoration of elective care. All of this was achieved against a background of extreme challenge for the NHS. Matthew further highlighted the importance of research in healthcare and the Trust's commitment to this.

Looking forward Matthew noted the closer working with Dorset HealthCare (DHC) to improve the health of the population we serve, and ensuring the NHS was fit for purpose in the 21st century.

Quality Account

Jo Howarth, Interim Chief Nursing Officer, highlighted the challenges the NHS faced emerging from the pandemic and outlined the Trust's quality priorities for 2022/23 around people, place, and partnership. These were aligned to the Trust's strategy and Jo noted the progress made against those priorities. She further highlighted the focus of the Trust on supporting a culture of openness and transparency, and caring for patients in ways which matter to them. Jo outlined the Trust's quality priorities for 2023/24

which were more focussed in their aims of safety, experience and effectiveness.

Performance 2022/23

Anita Thomas, Chief Operating Officer, outlined the Trust's performance for the year 2022/23, highlighting that national targets were not the only metric by which the Trust measured success; the quality of care and impacts of waiting times were also of key importance in understanding a patient's experience. Anita noted that in 2022/23 the Trust was recovering from the pandemic and the national multi-year approach to achieving pre-Covid standards. Anita drew attention to improved wait times in the ED, increased activity levels and the challenge of patients ready for discharge but awaiting onwards packages of care.

Annual Accounts 2022/23

Chris Hearn, Chief Financial Officer, noted the change in financial regime coming out of Covid and provided an overview of the financial results of the Trust at the end of 2022/23, noting a small surplus of £43,000 against a planned breakeven position. He gave details of the Trust's income, expenditure, and investments, paying particular attention to financial challenges the Trust and, more broadly, the NHS was facing.

AGM23/003

New Hospital Programme

Tristan Chapman, Programme Director, outlined the developments and investments being made to the Trust's estate over the next few years, noting that this was the first major investment on the site since the north and south wings were built in the 1980s. Tristan highlighted the development of the multi-storey car park, the plans for the new ED and Critical Care Unit being funded by the New Hospital Programme, the Outpatient Assessment Centre at South Walks House, and the new Discharge Lounge. These developments would provide the Trust with a modern ED which would improve resilience and flow through the hospital. The South Walks House development offered a modern way for outpatients to be seen by a number of clinicians and reduce waiting lists, whilst also offering administrative space to allow further development of clinical spaces on the main DCH site. Finally, Tristan commended the team effort evidenced in the incredibly quick turnaround from receipt of funding in January 2023 to the Discharge Lounge being built and then opened in August 2023.

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Working Together with Dorset HealthCare NHS Foundation Trust

Nick Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Strategy, Transformation and Partnerships, outlined the Working Together Programme of collaboration between DCH and DHC. He explained the common challenges faced by both organisations and the need to work more closely to solve those issues and to seize new opportunities to improve the health of the populations the Trust served. Nick outlined the agreement to progress with collaboration in September 2022 and the steps taken since then, including recruiting the joint Chair and joint CEO. He detailed the work to identify and support existing collaborative working as opportunities for learning and the benefits this work was already reaping.

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Lead Governor's Report

Kathryn Harrison, Lead Governor, reported on activities undertaken by the Council of Governors during the year 2022/23, including their role in recruiting the Chair and CEO, and thanked the Chair and CEO for the open and constructive way in which they were developing relationships with the Governors. Kathryn highlighted the role of formal governor meetings, and the governors' work in observing Board and Committee

meetings, which evidenced for her the hard work going on behind the scenes in the Trust.

Kathryn noted the role of governors in representing the public the Trust serves, and that as the pandemic abated governors were able to hold more events in the Trust and in public. Today she had met patients in the Trust and had asked them to share what they thought was best about the Trust, with overwhelmingly positive feedback about the staff. Kathryn thanked all who worked at the Trust for their continued hard work.

AGM23/006 Questions from Members and the Public

A member of the Trust asked for an update on overseas recruitment, recognising that the UK could not train as many nurses as was needed and noting the loss of staff when the UK left the EU and visa issues for staff from the Philippines. Jo Howarth outlined that the Trust was undertaking a great deal of work in this area with 106 overseas nurses being recruited this year and a further 100 planned for next year. Jo highlighted that the Trust was recruiting from countries who overtrained staff to send abroad and that there were no issues with visas or sponsorships for those staff. Jo reflected on the work the Trust was doing to welcome and offer pastoral support to overseas staff, and recognised there was further work to do in this arena.

The same member of the Trust further asked about the Trust's plans to build keyworker housing on site and to source keyworker housing in the community, noting the development of Alexandra House in Brewery Square. Chris Hearn confirmed that keyworker housing was part of the Trust's strategic estates masterplan. Due to planning issues relating to the geography of the area on-site housing development was currently paused, but the Trust continued to pursue options for off-site housing at affordable rates for staff, such as the 62 units within Alexandra House. Matthew Bryant further commented on the strategic context to keyworker housing.

AGM23/007 Chairman's Closing Remarks

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