

<b>Paper No. SET/50/20</b>	
	<b>Tick One ✓</b>
For discussion	
For approval	
For information/noting	✓

**Date of Trust Board Meeting:** 30 September 2020

**Confidential or Public Agenda:** Confidential & Public

**Agenda item:** Chair's Report

Colleagues

We cancelled our being together in one room as a Board at the last minute in August due to concerns over the apparent rise of Covid-19 positive results in the community. Whilst disappointing, I believe wholeheartedly it was the correct thing to do.

Since then I, like you, have been extremely concerned about the rapid escalation in community transmission and as I write this the NI Executive have announced further restrictions on the population. All of this brings additional burdens to our staff.

Looking at our surroundings now and towards the horizon I think it is unlikely that we will be able to meet as we used to pre March 2020 until possibly Spring of next year. I hope I am wrong in that assessment and if I am, we will reconvene for business as soon as is safe to do so.

I have met with both EMT members and Irene Hewitt to help construct a workshop plan that allows us to revisit our role as a Board, our Leadership as a Board and what governance we need as a Board as we face into further critical operational conditions. Again it would have been extremely beneficial to be in one room together for the discussion but regrettably it will be an online session with as much interaction as we can include.

I undertook a one day online course on the role of Non-Executive Directors to refresh my knowledge and update my learning.

I had the privilege along with Seamus to meet and greet the NHS Spitfire in Newtownards after it flew across 4 of our Hospital sites paying tribute to the amazing work of our staff throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. That was the only visit I undertook during the month.

In the weeks ahead I will be curtailing my time in Trust Headquarters as much as possible and working from home to play my part in reducing unnecessary contact.

Jonathan

