

SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

**Minutes of a Public Meeting of the
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust Board
held on Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 2.17 pm
in Meeting Room, Trust HQ, Ulster Hospital, Dundonald and via Meeting Platform**

PRESENT IN TRUST Mr J Patton, Chairman (Acting)
HQ:

PRESENT (via Meeting Platform) Mr S McGoran, Interim Chief Executive
Mr C Martyn, Medical Director
Mrs B Campbell, Director of Children's Services & Executive Director of Social Work
Ms W Thompson, Director of Finance and Estates
Ms N Patterson, Director of Primary Care, Older People & Executive Director of Nursing
Mr N Brady, Non-Executive Director
Mrs H Minford, Non-Executive Director
Dr M Briscoe, Non-Executive Director
Mr M Mawhinney, Non-Executive Director
Ms J O'Hagan, Non-Executive Director

IN ATTENDANCE (via Meeting Platform): Mrs M O'Kane, Interim Director of Adult Services & Prison Healthcare
Ms R Coulter, Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics
Mrs M Weir, Director of Human Resources & Corporate Affairs
Dr D Robinson, Interim Director of Hospital Services

IN ATTENDANCE (in Trust HQ) Mrs V Walker, Interim Assistant Director, Risk Management and Governance & Board Secretary
Mr S Martin, Executive Support Services Manager (minutes)

APOLOGIES: None

OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly Ms Thompson attending her first Public Trust Board meeting since taking up post as Director of Finance & Estates. **The Chairman** acknowledging the possibility of poor sound reception invited Members to speak clearly to ensure their points are captured and responded to directly.

84/20 DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WITH ANY BUSINESS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The Chairman invited Members to declare any potential conflicts of interest. No such declarations were made.

85/20 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman confirmed that he had tabled a report which was circulated with the papers for today's meeting. If there are items for further discussion, Members were invited to bring to the Chairman's attention outside of this forum.

86/20 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

Mr McGoran advised that he did not have any items to raise that were not already part of the main agenda.

87/20 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2020**

Members were content for the minutes of the Public Meeting held on 26 August 2020, having been previously circulated, to be taken as read and signed as a true and accurate record.

88/20 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Chairman noted that there were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

89/20 **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

For Discussion and/or Approval

(a) Financial Report for the period ending 31 August 2020

Members received, for information, Paper No. SET/51/20 Financial Report for the period ending 31 August 2020 which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. In presenting the paper, **Ms Thompson** provided a detailed overview of the current financial position for the period ending 31 August 2020 highlighting that current projected deficit had improved significantly from last month. **Ms Thompson** stated that DoH is finalising returns for the October monitoring round with Trusts asked to re-evaluate low impact measures. Progress is being made against our savings target but the overall outlook remains uncertain.

Mr Mawhinney applauded the work in reducing the projected deficit and noted that it was his understanding that monies saved as a result of a downturn in activity due to Covid can be used against Trust savings targets, but that any new spend arising as a result of the pandemic will be covered by DoH. **Mr Brady** agreed stating that those savings are central to the in-year recovery from the initial year end forecast. **Mrs O'Hagan** stated that the graphs presented were as expected but sought clarification on commentary that work continues with DoH to achieve a break even position asking at what point is a decision taken if we are unable to achieve what is required. **Ms Thompson** responded that the October Monitoring Round will be vital particularly if DoH benefits from additional funding if there is slippage in other public sector projects. **Ms Thompson** cautioned that it may be early December before the full extent of any additional funding is identified and at that juncture consideration would be given to any possible measures which could be actioned. **Mr McGoran** added that by then the ability to deliver high impact measures will be limited and given the current context there is a strong case for additional investment.

Responding to a number of queries from **Mr Brady, Ms Thompson** provided additional information on specific financial figures compared to last year and the underlying deficit.

(b) Performance Management Reports

Members received, for information, Papers No. SET/52-54/20 Performance Management Reports which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. In presenting the papers, **Ms Coulter** advised that the Scorecard and Dashboard have been tabled for information and would be content to answer any queries following the meeting. **Ms Coulter** drew particular attention specifically to the HSC Rebuild paper and gave a comprehensive overview explaining the position to date highlighting that only seven specialisms had not yet met target some of which was as a consequence of demand rather than capacity.

Dr Briscoe raised waiting lists within general medicine and gastrology as a particular concern. **Ms Coulter** advised of ongoing discussions with the Commissioner and agreed that consideration was needed on how best to communicate to key stakeholders that the position is unsustainable. **Dr Briscoe** asked if HSCB would be able to co-ordinate a regional approach to reduce the lists using capacity elsewhere stating that without action the position will become indefensible with an urgent need for flexibility in terms of prioritising any additional resources made available. **Ms Coulter** advised she would raise the issue with the Commissioner again. **Dr Briscoe** thanked Ms Coulter for her responses and sought clarification around the Finance and Performance Committee's role in terms of Rebuild monitoring. **Ms Coulter** confirmed that Rebuild monitoring is captured through Planning & Performance and if anything required escalation it would go to Executive Management Team and to Trust Board as appropriate.

For Information/Noting

(c) Update – Covid-19

Mr Martyn provided a verbal update on the current situation across the Trust where there is a developing upward trend in hospital admissions with figures today showing 5 lab positive cases at UHD, 4 clinical positive and a total of 14 suspected. **Ms Patterson** stated that five homes in the Trust catchment area are currently defined as having an outbreak with asymptomatic cases being picked up through the regional rolling testing scheme. Staffing remains a significant challenge with increasing numbers absent due to self-isolation leading to an increase in requests from providers for assistance.

Mr Brady asked for additional detail on those facilities with outbreaks. **Ms Patterson** detailed the five units and noted that an outbreak is defined by PHA as two or more residents or staff having tested positive. **Mr Brady**

responded that this was important background given that the word 'outbreak' had emotive connotations and asked about the patient journey from residential facility to hospital. **Ms Patterson** confirmed this would be a clinical decision and depend on individual patient needs noting the ongoing work in the area of anticipatory care planning.

Mrs Minford referring to the number of community staff currently self-isolating asked if staff had been redeployed from others services to support. **Ms Patterson** stated that the need for redeployment was keep under constant review balancing the impact of down-turning other services & staff's willingness to work in the Independent Sector A targeted approach through the new Workforce Appeal to attract people willing to work in the residential/nursing home sector is also ongoing. **Mrs Weir** acknowledged that the Workforce Appeal targeting was an important exercise but Members should be mindful that previously numbers made available for work were limited.

(d) Update – Flu Vaccinations

Members received, for information, Paper No. SET/55/20 Flu Vaccinations which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. In presenting the paper, **Mrs Weir** advised that this is now a Trust Board responsibility with roll-out having commenced two days previously and uptake so far surpassing expectations. All mobile availability has been used each day, the four designated centres are experiencing high volumes and peer vaccinators who total over 170 in number proving very active including one example where 70 doctors had been vaccinated in a single morning. A significant communications effort is in effect and Trade Unions are supporting to help reach the challenging target of 75% of all staff.

Dr Briscoe advised Members of her membership of the Flu Steering Group and how she had found the process efficient and effective. **Mrs O'Hagan** asked what efforts are being made to encourage independent sector staff to participate. **Mr McGoran** noted every possible effort was being made to promote the scheme but there is no ability to oblige uptake.

At this juncture, Dr Briscoe departed the meeting so she could attend peer vaccinator training [2.53pm].

(e) Nursing and Midwifery Celebration Report

Members received, for information, Paper No. SET/56/20 Nursing and Midwifery Celebration Report which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. In presenting the paper, **Ms Patterson** stated that the Report highlights the vital contribution played by nursing and midwifery colleagues across health and social care. **The Chairman** stated it was an outstanding report and **Mrs O'Hagan** remarked that she appreciated how multi-disciplinary achievements were documented with many examples included.

Following a suggestion from **Mr Brady, Ms Patterson** agreed to liaise with Communications in relation to increasing the distribution reach of the report.

(f) Annual Report on Information Governance 2019/20

Members received, for information, Paper No. SET/57/20 Annual Report on Information Governance 2019/20 which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. In presenting, **Mrs Weir** said that the paper provided a report on the Trust's Information Governance arrangements from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 including an overview of the key areas of information governance including data protection, freedom of information, data quality, ICT & Cybersecurity. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(g) Report on the Organisational Controls Assurance Programme 2019/20

Members received, for information, Paper No. SET/58/20 Report on the Organisational Controls Assurance Programme 2019/20 which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. In presenting the paper, **Mrs Weir** gave an outline of the annual report and provided verbal assurance that as Directors all relevant requirements within the controls in place are being fulfilled. **The Chairman** thanked Mrs Weir for her update on the report.

(h) Report and Minutes of the Governance Assurance Committee meeting held on 16 September 2020 and Updated Governance Assurance Committee Terms of Reference

Members received, for information, Paper No. SET/59/a & b/20 Report and Minutes of the Governance Assurance Committee meeting held on 16 September 2020 which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Mrs Weir advised that the papers are tabled as is and there being no questions from Members **Mrs Weir** drew attention to the revised draft Terms of Reference contained within Paper No. SET/59/c/20 as circulated for consideration and approval. **Mrs Weir** noted that the revisions reflected Trust Board's request to all Committees to consider the inclusions of provisions relating to HSC Rebuild and Covid-19. After a short discussion, Members approved the revised Terms of Reference as furnished.

90/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matters were raised by Members for consideration under this item.

91/20 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation today and confirmed that the next Public Trust Board meeting will be held on **Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 2pm at Trust Headquarters, Ulster Hospital, Dundonald and via Meeting Platform.**