

Paper No. SET/25/21	
	Tick One ✓
For discussion	
For approval	
For information/noting	✓

Date of Trust Board Meeting: 26 May 2021

Confidential or Public Agenda: Confidential/Public

Agenda Item: Chair's Report

Colleagues,

I closed off my March Report to Board with the statement that I was unclear what the Minister or Department were minded to do about the role of Chair at SET for 2021/22. The Chief Executive was subsequently able to confirm at our March Board Meeting that 'the Chair position would continue in an interim status for 2021 with competition expected in 2022'.

I would like to thank Board Members for their support in permitting me to continue in that Acting role for the next number of months and I look forward to working with you all for the benefit of all of those who rely on South Eastern Trust for employment and care.

At that time I also reported that as we approached the end of the month the total funds raised for The Chairman's Challenge was £7,500.00. We closed off the month at an incredible £10,000.00. My thanks and appreciation goes to all who donated so generously.

I was again privileged to welcome the First and Deputy First Ministers, Health Minister and Chief Medical Officer to South Eastern Trust on the first morning of our SSE Arena mass vaccination programme. All were incredibly impressed by the speed of delivery of the project and the smooth, calm, controlled environment they were evidencing. A number of weeks later I was able to join with Non-Executive colleagues in visiting SSE Arena again to see our vaccination programme in full swing. Staff gave a very comprehensive overview of the journey to date and answered questions.

It was really important for non-operational Board Members to not just see the work and logistics required to make a project like this happen but to be able to thank staff on the ground for their amazing work. I would also wish to record my thanks and appreciation to my counterpart Mr Eric Porter, Chair of The Odyssey Trust. Mr Porter and his operational team have been incredible partners and have left nothing to chance to make the venue accessible and operational for our teams and the public.

In appropriate and prior risk assessed settings, I undertook some in person attendances. I visited Longstone School in Dundonald to meet pupils that had drawn pictures of their interpretation of superheroes fighting the Coronavirus infection and how to help protect ourselves. Forward thinking staff within SET had these transformed into posters and over 1000 are now on the walls of our buildings and facilities.

I met with the Leader of the North Down Scouts Group to receive a Personal Challenge Badge on behalf of the Trust in recognition of our staff's dedication and commitment throughout the Pandemic. I joined staff in the Ulster Hospital in observing a one-minute silence on International Workers Day 28th April. Foremost in our minds were the staff colleagues we lost to Covid-19 in the pandemic.

I was privileged to again attend International Nurses Day within the Trust and thank our approx. 3600 nursing staff for their unwavering and untiring service. I also chaired two recruitment panels for Consultants and thank those of my Non-Executive colleagues who did likewise since our last meeting.

Other events have included:

- Speaking online at the pre-Go Live Meeting for SSE Vaccination Centre SET staff
- Welcoming online our international staff at their inaugural meeting of the staff multi-cultural forum
- Attending several online NICON, NHS Confed and Chief Executives Forum seminars as well as the DoH online staff consultation on Duty of Candour
- Attending the online launch of our Trust Quality Report

HSC Chairs met online again with the Minister and raised the issues of the pressures on our Emergency Departments, the concerns about criminal liability around Duty of Candour and the Mental Capacity Act. A paper was presented indicating the significant shortages of Non-Executives across the Department's ALBs and seeking to find a better way to manage the problems in this part of the system.

It would be wrong of me not to mention that I said goodbye to two of the most incredibly warm and helpful members of the team at Trust Headquarters. As dwellers in 'The West Wing' of Trust HQ they were two people I trusted greatly and when I needed help and guidance they were always there with constructive, balanced solutions. For me personally, both not just at the top of their game, but the best in our Regional HSC structures by far. I wish I had longer to benefit from their wisdom and wit. Myra Weir and Jeanie Johnston you enter well deserved retirement with my best wishes.

Everything to date in my report is historical and to that end so is the recruitment campaign in April to source a new Chief Executive for South Eastern Trust. The selection process yielded a candidate at interview who presented as professional, composed, articulate, knowledgeable and confident that the role needed them to make it the success it needs to be. Our own home-grown Roisin Coulter will take up her position of Chief Executive on 1st July 2021 and will lead the Trust out of Covid-19 into a changed world that has stretched our staff, diminished our financial resources and urgently needs agile, fleet of foot and innovative responses more than ever. Roisin will need courageous thinking and a reservoir of resilience to take on arguably one of the key public sector Chief Executive roles in Northern Ireland.

As a Board, we must get behind her, support her, encourage her and push her on to new horizons in this challenging environment to ensure we continue to do our best for staff and those we care for. I know we as individuals and collectively as a Board will not be found wanting when Roisin steps into the role.

Jonathan



“Collective leadership creates the foundation of a strong, supportive organisational culture.”

HSC Collective Leadership Strategy