

Paper No. SET/42/21	
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For discussion	
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Date of Trust Board Meeting: 25 August 2021

Confidential or Public Agenda: Public

Agenda Item: Chair's Report

Colleagues,

This is the first Board meeting where our new Chief Executive has had complete control of the reins and I thank her for how she both prepared for the Office ahead of our previous Chief Executive leaving and how she has conducted business since formally commencing the job. One of, if not the most important, is the relationship between The Chairman and his or her Chief Executive and vice versa. We are in unison but neither of us underestimates the journey we are on and the difficulties that lie ahead. We take great solace in and have full confidence in that the skills, knowledge and maturity of this Board means we are well placed to embrace what comes at us and the can do attitude embedded in our culture will ensure patients, those who use our services and their families receive the best possible care.

NICON facilitated the HSC Chairs group with two Zoom meetings which I attended, one with Chair and Non-Executive colleagues hearing from David Nicholl and his experience and observations on producing the Independent Report on RQIA. The second was our 8 weekly meeting with the Minister which was postponed in June. Chairs discussed with him the pressures on our system both in acute and community, the pay offer to staff and his strategic plan on Elective Care Framework.

I was also privileged to host the Minister on a visit to the almost complete Lisburn Primary Care Centre on our Lagan Valley Hospital site. This building is a fabulous addition to our estate and having spoken with General Practitioners at the event they cannot wait to move in and increase the partnership working which has already been in place. I commend our teams in getting the project this far in the environment we have experienced and the great work they have done to make it a reality.

I attended two NHS Confederation Events since our June Board Meeting with myself being asked to provide a formal presentation in the July meeting providing commentary on our experience and direction of travel through the pandemic to date at South Eastern Trust. Over 80 NHS England and Wales Chairs joined the Zoom call.

I chaired one Consultant recruitment panel and met with Non-Executive colleagues on Zoom call to discuss the Nicholl Report and the addendum to our Corporate Strategy document.

I was delighted to both receive an invitation and attend Marmion Children's Home Fun Day this month and witness the passion and pride our staff have for our children. The arrangements for the day, the home cooked food on offer and the family members of our children who attended made for a fabulous atmosphere and event. Well done 'Team Marmion'.

I took time out to visit staff at two of our Mobile Vaccination Teams in Lisburn and Comber in order to thank them for their role in the vaccination programme. I saw significant numbers of the public queuing and waiting for their turn. I was also able to speak with our volunteers assisting at both sites. I publicly want to record my thanks for the fabulous work done in localised vaccination sessions.

I was invited as a guest to attend the launch of the Wellness Recovery Network in Downpatrick. Listening to the help and support those participating gained from their peers was both highly emotional and inspiring. I wish the group well and every success in growing in Downpatrick to be a help to even more people.

Volunteering which I champion within the Trust had a welcome boost in our social media and local press with Dan relating his personal experience of serving with us and the positive impact on his life. I commend the article to any of you who have not read it as yet.

As you will all be aware SET needed to return the SSE Arena to its rightful owners and a closing ceremony on Sunday 22nd August 2021 marked the end of that chapter offering vaccinations taking place in the iconic Belfast landmark. I had the privilege in attending with the Chief Executive and I welcomed the Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE, Health Minister Mr Robin Swann MLA, Chief Medical Officer, Professor Sir Michael McBride and Head of Covid-19 vaccination programme Patricia Donnelly to say thank you to staff and formally close the venue in its role as a mass vaccination centre. I would again pay tribute to the amazing individuals who, coming from so many diverse backgrounds and experiences formed one 'family' and delivered an unrivalled healthcare programme ending on the night with 368,463 vaccinations administered. Too many people to name but a massive heartfelt thanks to you all.

Very few of you will have known before this month but there is such an organisation known as NHS Forest. An independent Charity, it seeks to improve the health of staff, patients and communities by increasing access to green space on or near to NHS land. On the 8th August 2021 they welcomed their first ever Northern Ireland hospital site to their award winners. The award went to our Lagan Valley Hospital site for their amazing avenue of Cherry Trees that line the route to the main hospital entrance. Thank you and congratulations to our Estates colleagues for their management and stewardship of what our predecessors planted. More details can be found online at: [Welcome | NHS Forest](#)

Regrettably I have to inform the Board that the Chairman's Golf Classic planned for 17th September will not now go ahead. The local Kiwoko Hospital Steering Group in conjunction with myself believed in the current circumstances and what we can see on the horizon this would not be the best course of action. The Tournament is postponed until Spring 2022.

I was pleased to be able to accept a cheque on behalf of the Trust for funds raised by Scrabo Striders Running Club. I again record my thanks for their thoughtfulness and generosity towards our staff.

We welcome Mark Cadden stepping in to the role of Executive Services Manager as we loan Stephen Martin out to our Council colleagues for the next number of months. Stephen as a Board we thank you for your steadfastness to our work and the support you give to us. Best wishes go to Mark as he develops into the role.

We also welcome for the first time ever to South Eastern Trust our Boardroom Apprentice for 2021/2022 Ms Judith English. Unlike our normal SET modus operandi we arrive late to this programme but I intend to make up ground very quickly by ensuring Judith has exposure to the work we do, the complexity of our services and see how the Board performs in providing healthcare to our population. We hope you have a valuable year Judith as you spend time with us.

I referred earlier in my report to the recently released document Elective Care Framework. I close this report with a quote from that document and thank those involved operationally for making this project the success it is.

“Last summer it was decided that Lagan Valley Hospital in the South Eastern Trust would become a dedicated elective care centre for the region. While the nature of the site means that it is most suitable for day case surgery and procedures rather than more complex work, the complete separation of elective and unscheduled services at the site has enabled services to continue be delivered throughout the pandemic on a ‘covid-light’ pathway. In recent months, the site has delivered red flag and other high priority lists on behalf of the region where these could not be accommodated at the hospital of origin due to pandemic pressures. The Day Procedure Centre at Lagan Valley has treated 1,588 patients since October 2020 across a range of specialties including plastic surgery, Ear Nose & Throat, General Surgery, Breast surgery, Urology, Op Ophthalmology. The success of the model is also dependent on the host Trust protecting the available staff and beds for regional patients. In establishing Northern Ireland’s first regional elective care centre, the South Eastern Trust has proved that this can be done.”

Jonathan



Collective leadership creates the foundation of a strong, supportive organisational culture.
HSC Collective Leadership Strategy