

<b>Paper No. SET/01/2022</b>	
	<b>Tick One ✓</b>
For discussion	
For approval	
For noting	✓

**Date of Trust Board Meeting:** 26 January 2022

**Confidential or Public Agenda:** Public

**Agenda Item:** Chair's Report

Colleagues,

Over and above my normal responsibilities, I chaired two Consultant Interview Panels securing additional new talent to join our already highly respected Clinical Teams.

It was really rewarding to re-engage with the life of our Children's Homes in the run up to Christmas being able to compliment staff and young people and award prizes for the artistic ability and work displayed on the Christmas Door' Competition. The enthusiasm and commitment were evident and I congratulate the staff for developing these new initiatives with our young people

Another new initiative for our Children's Homes was the 'Bake Off Competition'. I was invited to Lakewood as one of the judges. Fourteen high quality entries provided an amazing spectacle for the eyes, an explosion on the taste buds and a sugar rush that took some time to abate! The competition was fierce and every creation was an absolute winner. The interest from the young people and home rivalry suggests this will expand and become an annual event.

I took time to visit staff at Lisburn PCCC Vaccination Centre to enquire how they were and thank them for their tremendous on-going commitment. Lisburn was also the location for a pilot programme run by our Volunteer Services Team. Partnering with St John Ambulance, we gave the opportunity to a number of young people training them in First Aid skills, CV creation and work environment experience through volunteering in Healthcare settings. I had the privilege of having the Mayor of Lisburn City Castlereagh Council Alderman Stephen Martin join me to present certificates at their graduation ceremony.

One very memorable seminar I attended was 'Hearing the Voice of the Child'. Organised by Barbara Campbell and her Directorate it gave a great insight as to how we engage with the children under our care. We are doing so much and teams were also able to identify areas for improvement and expansion.

I made my long-awaited visit to Thompson House in Lisburn to primarily meet volunteers and see first-hand the work they had carried out on the exterior of the Hospital improving furniture, planters and planting areas throughout the period when they could not visit and engage with patients. They have made the most incredible transformation and improvement to the external environment and patients, families and staff have all benefitted from their work. Staff took time to give me a tour of the Hospital and explained the attention and treatment given to those in their care. I left thoroughly impressed and yet again inspired by what staff in our Trust do each and every day. I represented the Trust at our six-weekly meeting with the Health Minister, again impressing on him the level of exhaustion within our staff and the need for recognition that reflects their commitment and responsibilities.

With no planned Board Meeting in December, I joined Non-Executive Director colleagues on a Zoom call to receive a briefing from the Chief Executive just ahead of the Christmas break. The time spent proved extremely valuable as it gave Non-Executive Directors an understanding of the

rate of change and speed of reaction as the Omicron variant raged through our communities. We were able to close off the year in our minds knowing that despite the concerns there was a calmness and strong controls in place from the Executive Management Team.

The new Acute Services Building gave us a new food service area which is a vast improvement on what was available to staff and visitors. The Trust engaged with staff in a competition to name not just this one café area but to brand our eating/dining areas across the Trust. I'm delighted to say I was able to meet with the competition winner, Nurse Gail Young. Her idea was 'Café Connect'. Gail explained her idea was that these locations are where we meet with colleagues, catch-up, share our concerns and find support to take on the next tasks. A very worthwhile engagement and a great outcome in my view.

Since our November Board the Chief Executive, the EMT and their teams developed the concept, executed the operation and when it had achieved its goal, subsequently closed down the Trust's second Mass Vaccination Centre. Working with staff from the Titanic Exhibition Centre in the Belfast Harbour Estate, in an unbelievable 5 days, set up the facility which delivered thousands of essential vaccines, including hundreds of first doses.

During its operation I was privileged to welcome on separate occasions, the Health Minister Robin Swann MLA and the Right Honourable Brandon Lewis CBE MP and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. These visits focused on the Ministers meeting with staff and thanking them for the incredible work they were doing. I was also able to join staff on their final night and pay tribute to them for a job well done.

I made a point of joining the online 'Keeping in the Loop' broadcasts delivered by the Chief Executive. These have been well attended and well received with a very important staff help and support element as part of the time spent together. We are seeing new levels of communication and engagement with staff by our new Chief Executive despite the inability to safely attend many locations. I commend her for the innovative and empathetic interactions with our staff. A great example of visible leadership.

I took time to pen a letter to all Trust staff as we enter New Year to thank them on behalf of myself and Trust Board for the superhuman efforts they had made throughout 2021 and give them encouragement as they face the next few months.

In order to protect the Executive Management Team and myself during the high transmission rate period I have reduced my time in Trust HQ to one day per week. This still allows for face-to-face meetings with the Chief Executive and the Board Secretary. All other work and meetings are held remotely.

As this is my first report of 2022 may I take this opportunity to thank you as a Board and as colleagues for your support throughout 2021 and wish you all a successful, contented and healthy New Year.

Jonathan



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