



Purpose of Paper: Chairman's Accountability Report

For Noting

Period: 25 November 2023 to 26 January 2024

We finally received news in this period of the outcome of the Non-Executive Director recruitment campaign launched in early 2023. I had requested two people with the expected commencement date of 1 October 2023 and can now report we have received one commencing 1 January 2024.

Despite the issue being alive to the Department and my correspondence, errors were made resulting in the need for us to retain a Director with financial experience to chair our Audit Committee. As I write this report, I am unable to provide the Board with any information about who our next three Non-Executive colleagues are or when they will join us. This gives us a period of uncertainty that is less than satisfactory given the extreme environment we are currently working in and so few Non-Executive Directors to provide the level of oversight required.

At this meeting, we say farewell to Non-Executive Directors, Dr Briscoe and Mr Mawhinney. After what feels like a fleeting 8 years of dedicated service, they move on from the SET Board to pastures new and hopefully a less pressurised space.

I want to convey my deepest appreciation for their contribution under the leadership of 3 Chairs and 4 Chief Executives 2 Health Ministers, 2 Permanent Secretaries, 2 Board Secretaries and 23 changes in Director colleagues. They presided over new builds of the IWB, ASB and Lisburn PCCC. During their tenure of 96 months, they continued to lead on and make decisions on services for patients and service users in the absence of a Health Minister for 53 of those months. They assisted in a total review of governance for the Board, supported staff through a worldwide pandemic and national emergency, oversaw the largest vaccination centre in the UK, enabled the transfer of services on smaller sites to safer provision, approved the first Regional Day Procedure Unit of its kind in NI, supported Executive colleague through unprecedented multiple industrial actions and dozens more significant and service improving decisions for patients and service users.

They commenced in difficult times for the HSC system but leave in near impossible times with significant unrest and levels of distress across all public services not just health. We thank you for unwavering support and commitment and your exemplary public service. You leave with our very best wishes.

Trust Engagement

Met with Trust Kiwoko Hospital Charity representative

Met with newly appointed DoH Executive Board Member (Sponsorship Branch)

Attended Maternity/Forget Me Not Bereavement Group Tree Planting ceremony

Met with Non-Executive Director and Trust colleagues to close out on People and Culture Committee discussions

Met with staff of Children's Services Lisburn PCCC and judged Christmas Doors competition

Attended DoH Commissioning Approach Workshop with the Permanent Secretary, DoH staff and HSC Chairs and Chief Executives

Meeting with HSC Leadership Centre to develop regional training and learning for Non-Executive Directors

Attended Service of Reflection on the life of the late Mr Mel Tohill, UHD Consultant

Met with the Peer Support staff for Ward 15 (Downshire) on their 50th year of the service

Met with our new Non-Executive Director

Associated Engagements

Attended University of Ulster Digital Health Technology Workshop

Met with Chief Executive Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland (HIRANI)

NICON Engagement:

Met with the Chief Executive of Belfast Chamber of Commerce

Attended NHS Confed online Chairs group

Chaired 2 HSC Chairs Forum online meeting with the Permanent Secretary

Attended HSC Improvement and Transformation Advisory Board (ITAB) Meeting

Chaired meeting with 6 HSC Trust Chairs

Met with recently appointed Chair of Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and Chair of the Public Health Agency

Chaired meeting with joint Trust Chairs and Chief Executives following the Commissioning Approach Workshop

Jonathan