

REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD (PUBLIC)

REPORT TITLE	Chair's Review of the Month
AUTHOR	Professor Steve Barnett, Chair
EXECUTIVE SPONSOR	Caroline Walker, Chief Executive
DATE OF MEETING	12 April 2022
PRESENTED FOR	Information
ITEM PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY	n/a

Presented For: Definitions

Information	For information only. Not to be discussed at meeting unless members have specific questions.
Discussion	For discussion and possibly future decision. This includes items presented for assurance.
Decision	For approval and/or when any other decision is required

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide update to the Board from the Chair

RISKS RELEVANT TO THE PAPER

Risk ID	Risk Description
N/a	N/a

RISK APPETITE RELEVANT TO THE PAPER (insert relevant section from Risk Appetite Statement from Risk Management Policy)

DOMAIN	TRUST RISK APPETITE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION OF RISK APPETITE
N/a	N/a	N/a

THE BOARD IS ASKED TO:

Note the contents of this report



STRATEGIC GOALS THIS REPORT SUPPORTS *(Check all that apply)*

Delivering outstanding care and experience	X
Recruiting developing and retaining our workforce	X
Improving and developing our services and infrastructure	X
Working together with local health and social care providers	X
Delivering financial sustainability	X

OTHER IMPLICATIONS OF THE PAPER

Legal/ Regulatory Relevance:	CQC Regulation 17 : Good Governance
NHS Constitution Delivery	n/a
Freedom of Information Release	This report can be released under the Freedom of information Act 2000

Equality and Diversity Implications *(Check all that apply)*

Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Disability	Pregnancy/ Maternity	Marriage/ Civil Partnership	Religion/ Belief	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment
x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	X
<i>Additional comments</i>								

1. Getting to know TeamNWAngliaFT

I am delighted and very proud to take up the position of Chair at North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust – and I am looking forward to this, my first meeting of the Trust Board of Directors.

It has been a long-held ambition for me to Chair this wonderful organisation. I believe passionately in delivering excellent services for the patients and communities we serve and creating the right culture and environment within which our staff can thrive.

My first few weeks in post have involved meeting fellow board members, our Governors, groups of staff, volunteers, local health and care partner colleagues and some of our key stakeholders. This will continue as part of a planned induction programme that spans the next few months, and will include visits to our three main hospital sites as well as the other community-based hospitals where NWAngliaFT staff deliver patient care.

I am pleased to report that my first days in the Trust have been very positive and I have encountered lots of staff who have been keen to help me settle in, for which I am very grateful. I joined our other new recruits to attend the Trust induction session on Monday 4 April, which was a great way to get to know the Trust better and meet more members of staff.

I have also enjoyed some online Q&A sessions with our staff and members of the Council of Governors. These have given me some useful insight in appreciating the great work being achieved, despite operating in difficult circumstances – plus a greater understanding of the challenges particular service areas are facing at the moment. Staff have invited me to visit their departments so I can see, at first-hand, how they are delivering care to our patients, or supporting others to do so. I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and helping out wherever I can, as this is so often the best way to truly understand how our staff keep our hospitals running as smoothly as possible every day.

As my diary fills with meetings, events and visits, I look forward to learning as much as possible about what makes NWAngliaFT tick in the next few months.

2. Understanding our challenges

The major part of my executive and non-executive career has been dedicated to the National Health Service, and in that time I have never seen such challenges as those we are experiencing both locally and nationally right now.

Like all acute healthcare trusts, we are working hard to recover services impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst still managing high numbers of COVID positive

inpatients in our hospitals. This, coupled with higher levels of demand on urgent and emergency care from non-COVID patients, and increased staff sickness rates, has meant that continuing to deliver high standards of patient care has been particularly challenging. In the face of these quite unprecedented pressures, staff at the Trust continue to do an amazing job on behalf of our patients and I would like to thank everyone for their continuing care and commitment.

I know our Board members are focused upon how we can resolve our operational challenges to improve patient – and staff – experience. I will do all I can to support this work.

I have been pleased to see initiatives in place as part of our Good To Outstanding programme to support the Health and Wellbeing of our staff members. Caring for our staff and creating the right culture is crucial for the smooth running of our hospitals and impacts on the care our patients receive. I am looking forward to seeing how we continue to support staff as we move into this next phase of recovery from the pandemic.

3. Looking ahead to the future

This is a significant time for our Trust as we implement the actions set out in the Trust strategy for the next three years.

In the coming months we will become part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System and I am looking forward to working alongside our Chief Executive Caroline Walker and the rest of the executive team to ensure NWAngliaFT is a key partner in the new system as it develops.

There are real benefits for us to realise from closer collaborative working in a system-based approach to planning and delivering genuinely integrated care.

Professor Steve Barnett
Chair