

Minutes from the Virtual Annual Members' Meeting/Annual General Meeting of York
Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust held on 26 October 2021

Present:

Ms S Symington, Chair
Mr S Morritt, Chief Executive
Mr A Bertram, Deputy Chief Executive & Finance Director
Mrs H McNair, Chief Nurse
Mrs W Scott, Chief Operating Officer
Mr D Roberts, Chief Digital Information Officer
Mrs L Brown, Director of Communications
Mrs L Mellor, Non-Executive Director
Dr L Boyd, Non-Executive Director
Mr J Dillon, Non-Executive Director
Mr S Holmberg, Non-Executive Director
Prof. M Morgan, Non-Executive Director
Mr M Taylor, Associate Director of Corporate Governance

Governors:

Ms S Light, Lead Governor & Public Governor for York
Mr M Reakes, Public Governor - York
Mrs H Fields, Public Governor - York
Mrs R Abeysekera, Public Governor - York
Mrs B Dale, Public Governor - York
Mrs C Thompson, Public Governor - Hambleton
Mrs A Walker, Public Governor - East Coast of Yorkshire
Mrs J Walker, Public Governor - East Coast of Yorkshire
Mr I Mackay Holland, Public Governor - East Coast of Yorkshire
Mr A Falconer, Public Governor - Ryedale & East Yorkshire
Mrs S Smith, Public Governor - Ryedale & East Yorkshire
Mr D Wright, Public Governor - Ryedale & East Yorkshire
Mr K Dawson, Public Governor - Selby
Mr D Calvert, Public Governor - Selby
Mr A Bhagwat, Public Governor - Out of Area
Cllr C Pearson, Stakeholder Governor – NYCC
Ms D Clements, Stakeholder Governor - Hospices
Mr G Richardson, Stakeholder Governor – York University
Mrs S Hurst, Staff Governor – Community
Mr B Stevenson-Wightwick, Staff Governor – Scarborough & Bridlington
Mrs M Liversidge, Staff Governor – Scarborough & Bridlington
Mr M Lee, Staff Governor – York
Mrs V Muna, Staff Governor - York

In attendance:

Tracy Astley, note taker
30 Members of the Public

Apologies:

Mr J Taylor, Medical Director; Miss P McMeekin, Director of Workforce & OD; Mrs J McAleese, Non-Executive Director; Mr B Chalk, Public Governor - East Coast of Yorkshire; Mr K Dobbie, Public Governor - East Coast of Yorkshire; Mr P Johnson, Stakeholder Governor – YTHFM LLP

Welcome

Ms Symington opened the Annual Members' Meeting incorporating the Annual General Meeting of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and welcomed members of the public to the event.

Ms Symington noted that the meeting would begin with a presentation from the Chief Executive and end with a presentation about the Governors' role and perspective and there would be an opportunity to ask questions after the presentations.

She commented that the year being discussed today, which started in April 2020, had been the most difficult, the most challenging, and the most distressing year in the history of the NHS. The NHS had worked tirelessly, innovatively and with great passion throughout the pandemic. She wanted to share with the audience a Thank You video that had been created for the Trust staff to recognise their extraordinary achievements and incredible efforts over the course of the last year. It was a humble, heartfelt thank you from all the Trust directors to the Trust's 9000 staff. Due to audio difficulties this was not shared but will be available with the minutes.

Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 October 2020 were approved as a true record.

Annual Report – summary of the year 2020-21

Mr Morrith, Chief Executive, gave an overview of the Trust and spoke about how Covid-19 had dominated the year and how the Trust had responded with the reconfiguration of the Trust's hospitals and the national directive to cancel all planned surgery and routine outpatients to focus on Covid-19 work and urgent/acute admissions and cancer.

He also spoke about the Great Big Thank You campaign to reward staff for their huge and continuing effort to the pandemic. A huge amount of effort and work had been undertaken to support staff health and wellbeing, as well as a range of initiatives included as part of the Great Big Thank You, ie. a day off for every member of staff on their birthday, a donation of £1000 per team to spend on what they wanted to spend it on, free staff meals, free parking, and other gifts and gestures throughout the year. Nothing could take away the huge stress and strain that staff had gone through over the past 18 months but hopefully it gave some recognition of the work that everybody had put in.

He also wanted to thank local businesses for their support. The Trust had received a huge response and the whole community stepped up to support their local NHS and the Trust was very grateful for that support.

He gave an overview of the Trust's performance and spoke about the fantastic achievement in managing Covid-19 alongside the work of urgent/acute/cancer work. He also explained the positive progress made against the Trust's action plan produced to address improvements highlighted by the CQC in their 2019 inspections.

Looking ahead, Mr Morrith gave an overview of site investments, both at Scarborough and York, as well as giving a summary of the Covid-19 recovery and addressing backlogs whilst working with ongoing restrictions, workforce challenges, developing sustainable services for all, improving safety and quality of clinical services, and adapting to its role within the Humber, Coast & Vale ICS which will take effect April 2022.

Annual Accounts

Mr Bertram, Deputy Chief Executive & Finance Director, presented the financial overview for 2020-21. He gave a summary of the Trust's finances and explained how the usual NHS financial regime had been suspended at the beginning of Covid-19 and an emergency Covid-19 financial regime was introduced which had operated for the full year and was still in place.

Mr Bertram also discussed the Elective Recovery Fund which had been provided for organisations who undertake more elective recovery activity to help restore waiting times to pre-pandemic levels. The Trust had undertaken additional elective work and had benefitted from the Elective Recovery Fund to finance this.

He spoke about the expectation to deliver an income and expenditure balance for 2021/22 and was confident that this objective could be achieved.

Finally, he wanted to give a huge thank you to all the staff for managing healthcare services, managing Covid-19, managing resources sensibly, and for supporting each other throughout a sustained and challenging period.

The Quality Report

Mrs McNair, Chief Nurse, began with discussing the challenges faced during the pandemic, especially around quality improvement, CQC actions, and improving frontline staff morale. Despite this, she explained that significant progress had been made and gave examples of the work that had been undertaken to improve quality of care and other achievements.

She then spoke about the significant investment being made in nurse staffing, increased recruitment opportunities, the secured funding for a nutrition nurse support team, and the recruitment of a Lead Nurse to move forward the Digital Documentation program.

Mrs McNair discussed the lessons learnt from the Covid-19 outbreak, the Covid-19 recovery plan, infection prevention control (IPC) including C.difficile and the Quality Improvement approach to SAFER and patient flow.

Finally, she spoke about the priorities for 2021/22 in order to improve patient experience and the nursing priorities in order to recruit and retain staff. She highlighted the strategies that had been put in place, including the Quality Strategy, Quality Improvement Strategy and the Mental Health Strategy, all of which will drive the patient experience in the Trust.

The Governors' Role and Perspective

Ms Light, Lead Governor, presented the Governors' perspective on the year. She outlined the role of a governor and the work governors had completed during the year especially in relation to their statutory duties around holding the Non-executive Directors to account and representing members. She explained how they had to adapt to new ways of working because of the pandemic and how some of the initiatives had been hindered due to the situation.

Moving forward, Ms Light spoke about the Governors' aims for the following year including the continued effort to develop the role of the governor and continued commitment to represent the community views in any discussions.

Ms Light congratulated the new governors on their recent appointment and also gave thanks to those governors who had come to the end of their tenure. She spoke about the pandemic situation and wished to thank the staff for all their hard work in ensuring patients received the best possible care.

And finally, Ms Light wanted to thank the governors for their commitment to the role and to thank the Chair, FT Secretary and his assistant for supporting the Council of Governors in their duties and wider remit.

Questions

Ms Symington invited questions from the floor.

A question was asked when it was likely that volunteers would be involved in activities at the hospitals, such as PLACE inspections? Ms Symington replied that the Trust would very much like to return to normal but could not in some areas because of continuing restrictions. There were currently 77 positive covid-19 patients in the Trust's hospitals so there was a focus on protecting everyone who came into the hospitals, and that impacted on its ability to work with volunteers.

No further questions were asked.

Ms Symington thanked the members of the public for attending. She also thanked the 9000 staff whose contributions underpinned what the Trust was able to share with the attendees today. She stated that the Trust was value driven and had three core values all staff worked to at all levels. These were kindness, openness and excellence which guided them in their efforts throughout the Trust.

Ms Symington spoke about her new position as Chair of the ICS Humber, Coast & Vale. This will be her final Trust AGM and she wanted to put on record that it had been an absolute privilege to chair this Trust for nearly seven years. She believed in the NHS, that it was a cause for good. She believed in the Trust and its commitment to the values. She believed in the leadership team to keep the Trust moving forward and in the 9000 staff who worked at the Trust every day for the benefit of those it served.

The meeting closed.