

<b>Meeting Title</b>	Board of Directors (Session in Public)		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	Chief Executive's Report		
<b>Sponsoring Executive Director</b>	Clare Panniker, Chief Executive		
<b>Report Author</b>	Clare Panniker, Chief Executive		
<b>Action Required</b>	Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring <b>X</b>		
<b>Background / Context</b>	The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of key aspects of the business of Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSE) since the previous Board meeting in public on 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2020.		
<b>Response to the COVID-19 pandemic</b>	We thank our staff and those of partner organisations for their outstanding ongoing efforts to care both for those patients diagnosed with COVID-19 but also other patients with urgent and emergency care needs. We also commend and appreciate the palpable support from our communities.		
<b>Building and governing our new organisation</b>	<p>The election process for the substantive Council of Governors will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. We look forward to having the new Council in place by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. In the meantime we remain very grateful for the support of our "caretaker" governors.</p> <p>The committee structure of our trust will be implemented in June 2020 now that the pandemic has passed its peak. Caretaker governors will be invited to observe the committees in action.</p>		
<b>Annual Reports and Accounts 2019/20</b>	<p>Board members will be aware that the timetable for the completion, formal approval and submission of the annual reports and accounts of NHS organisations has been postponed nationally to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020.</p> <p>The governance associated with the three sets of annual reports and accounts is drawing to a close, following extensive review of drafts by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>National regulations prevent us from publishing the annual reports and accounts until they have been laid before Parliament, which we have advised will not happen ahead of Parliament's summer recess. We continue to plan for the combined Annual General Meeting to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.</p>		

<b>Service Developments, Innovations and Accolades</b>	A number of accolades, service developments and innovations across our hospitals are noted in the report.
<b>Timescale for Benefits to be Realised</b>	Ongoing
<b>Assessment of Implications</b>	
<b>Financial</b>	<p>Does this paper have <u>revenue</u> (recurrent or non-recurrent) implications for the Trusts? Not directly</p> <p>Does this proposal have <u>capital</u> (recurrent or non-recurrent) implications for the Trusts? Not directly</p> <p>If yes, can these implications be <u>fully</u> covered by existing budgets? N/A</p>
<b>Risk</b>	Risks relating to the pandemic and to other issues outlined in this paper are reflected in the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) also on today's agenda.
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	This proposal has been subject to an equality analysis and there are no implications for groups with protected characteristics
<b>Freedom of Information</b>	No exemptions apply (i.e., information is in the public domain)
<b>Other Implications Identified (including patient safety and quality, legal and regulatory compliance)</b>	None of note
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>The Board of Directors of Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust is invited to:</p> <p>Note the report from the Chief Executive and to request any additional assurance as required.</p>
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A

## Chief Executive's Report – June 2020

### Opening Remarks

Welcome to this third meeting “in public” of the Board of Directors for Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust. It is regrettable that, due to the ongoing national social distancing requirements, we are unable to meet face-to-face with a public gallery. However I am very keen that we remain as transparent as possible to the communities we serve. The papers for this meeting have been published on the websites of the three legacy trusts and have been sent electronically to the Governors and Patient Council members of the three former trusts.

We have also invited the Lead Governors and Patient Council Leads to connect to board meetings in order to observe the new Board in action.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Board members are well sighted on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the response of our trust as part of the Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership system.

As a Board, we continue to be so proud of how our clinical staff and those non-clinical professionals who support them, have worked together in an unprecedented set of circumstances to keep our hospitals running and to safeguard the quality of care and access to critical care beds not only for COVID patients but other patients who are in need of urgent and emergency care.

I would like to reiterate the message given by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care that the NHS is “open for business” for patients of all ages needing urgent care. Processes such as hand-washing and social distancing have been in operation across all of our sites for the last five weeks or so to minimise the risk of infection. As a result, members of the public should not hesitate to call 999 or visit A&E if they experience symptoms of illness or injury such as chest pain, shortness of breath or severe bleeding.

As a result of our cross-site working and partnerships with other statutory organisations and voluntary services across the Mid and South Essex system, we have been able to provide critical care beds, staffed with the appropriate specialist medical and nursing staff and equipped with ventilators, for all patients who have required them. Given the capacity we have built into the local critical care system, we have been able to care for all of those patients requiring critical care, arising from COVID-19 or other conditions.

It is now time for us to start looking to the future, and to plan for re-introducing some services. It's important that we do not delay treatment any longer than we have to, so we want to start seeing elective patients as soon as it is safe to do so. The MSE Future Programme was launched in late May 2020 to explore how we “reset” our services, taking advantage of this opportunity to review patient pathways and to explore making permanent technological innovations that we have rolled out during the pandemic such as routine outpatient consultations.

We would like to thank Colin Wilkinson from Basildon Churches Together who has been applauding NHS staff each morning for 40 days as they drove into the Basildon Hospital site. The impact of this display of support has had an immeasurable impact on staff morale. On the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, staff showed their appreciation to Colin with a socially distanced “mass clap” and the presentation of a gift basket. Colin's contribution is a reflection of the many ways in which our communities have supported staff and patients during the pandemic.

### Annual Reports and Accounts 2019 for our predecessor trusts

Board members will be aware that the timetable for the completion, formal approval and submission of the annual reports and accounts of NHS organisations has been postponed nationally to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

The governance associated with the three sets of annual reports and accounts is drawing to a close, following extensive review of drafts by the Audit Committee.

National regulations prevent us from publishing the annual reports and accounts until they have been laid before Parliament, which we have advised will not happen ahead of Parliament's summer recess. We continue to plan for the combined Annual General Meeting to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

### Building and governing a new organisation

As a consequence of the social distancing restrictions, we were unable to commence the election process for the Council of Governors (COG) in April 2020 as intended.

Now that we are past the peak of the pandemic and social distancing restrictions are being eased, the elections will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 with the formal opening of nominations from public and staff members of the trust. Balloting will take place from mid-August to mid-September 2020. In the meantime, we have approached our partner organisations who have an appointed governor seat on the COG to obtain their nominations. We anticipate having the substantive COG in place on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

In the meantime, I would like to thank the Governors of the former Southend Hospital Trust and the former Basildon and Thurrock Trust, as well as the Mid Essex Patient Council for agreeing to continue to work with us in an informal "caretaker" capacity until the election process is complete. This provides the Trust with an important link to our staff and the communities we serve.

We are also pleased to be able to develop our corporate governance infrastructure beyond the interim arrangements that we implemented at the point of merger as part of our COVID-19 response. From this month, the committees of our board will meet separately, with their already agreed membership, chairs and terms of reference, replacing the combined board assurance committee monthly meeting. However the agenda will be streamlined and risk-based to ensure an appropriate balance between good governance and the need to continue to release senior resources to manage the next stage of the pandemic response and to ensure patient and staff safety. Nominated governor observers will be invited to attend the committee meetings in the interests of transparency and good practice.

### Service Developments, Accolades and Innovations

Even during, and in some cases in response to, the pandemic, our staff continue to pursue excellence and innovation. Here are a few recent examples:

- Wellbeing Hubs have been created at Basildon, Broomfield and Southend Hospitals, offering staff a quiet and comfortable space to relax and reflect in their breaks from their demanding work during the Covid-19 outbreak. The newly developed spaces across all three hospitals give access to refreshments and information about support and counselling. They are available to all hospital staff and can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week;

- Post-treatment cancer patients are to gain more control over their on-going care and support, thanks to a new remote digital monitoring platform. The trust has commissioned an innovative web portal that will allow patients to benefit from “personalised care packages” after they have been treated for breast, colorectal or prostate cancer. This will mean fewer hospital visits as they will now be able to keep in touch with their clinicians from the comfort of their homes;
- Young patients are now being welcomed with familiar cartoon characters on facemasks of paediatric therapies staff at Basildon Hospital, to help make essential personal protective equipment (PPE) less scary. Children who are anxious and have had to come into hospital were finding facemasks rather frightening. This prompted therapy assistant Sarah Turner to safely adapt face shields to cartoon themed versions.

**Clare Panniker – Chief Executive**

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2020**