

## **Report from the Trust Chair on the activity of the Boards for Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which met in common on 4 June 2020**

### **Introduction**

Given the rules on social distancing each Board took the decision to suspend public board meetings during this period. The Board has also taken the decision recognising the demands on the Trust and Executive Management to focus Board meetings on receiving updates on key matters and taking key decisions that cannot be delayed

Each Trust recognises the interest in the NHS during this period and each Trust is keen to keep the Public informed of the matters it discussed and report the key decisions it has taken (recognising that some elements of any contractual decision would not be disclosed). The Boards for BSUH and WSHFT met at the same time to help streamline governance through this challenging time so commentary below refers to both Trusts unless otherwise described.

The meeting in June remained a private Board receiving in the main verbal updates and presentations.

### **Activity of the Board**

Both Boards as at their last meetings on the 20 April received an update from the Executive team led by the Chief Executive covering the Trust's response to Covid-19 and the plans developed. The Boards meeting in June received an update on each Trust's development of their Refresh, Restore and Recovery planning for the increase in non Covid patients, recognising that the Trust's collaboration with each other was a key strength for the development of robust plans.

Both Boards were assured over the development of robust plans and that the development of these plans will ensure that the innovative ways of working which have been developed through the crisis will be retained within in the future. Each Board received a report from the respective Chairs of the Trust's Finance and Performance and Quality Assurance Committees.

In respect of each Finance and Performance Committee's update both Boards were informed that for each Trust they achieved their month 1 breakeven position.

In respect of each Quality Committee's update both Boards were informed that each Trust has used the recently released Infection Prevention and Control board assurance tool issued by NHS E/I and neither Trust had identified any significant gaps in assurance against the specified prompts.

### **Key Decisions**

Each Trust confirmed their compliance with the NHS I provider licence they operate too, this information has been placed on each Trust's web site.

For BSUH this can be found at <https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/about-us/our-performance/self-certification/>

For WSHFT this can found at <http://www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/WSHT-NHSI-Declarations-2019-20.pdf>

Each Board ratified the submission of their capital plan to NHS E/I which was made at the end of May and had been subject to review by the respective Finance and Performance Committees.

### **Next meetings**

After having used MS Teams for the last two albeit shorter Board meeting the meetings in August (the 4<sup>th</sup> for BSUH and the 6<sup>th</sup> for WSHFT) will offer the public to opportunity to view the meetings via this medium.

**Alan McCarthy**

**Trust Chairman**