

Chair's report

Purpose

1. To update the Board on recent meetings I Have attended (see Appendix 1). In addition, I have held numerous meetings with our managers and NEDs in person, via zoom/teams and by telephone.

Key issues

2. At the end of November 2023 I accepted Julian Stanley's resignation as our CEO on behalf of the Board. He resigned as he had made the decision that the post was not a good fit for him.
3. Following Julians resignation and with the agreement of other NEDs I immediately set about putting into place interim management arrangements with the help of Jo McHattie, Caroline Tyrrell-Jones and Jonathan Jelly (NED). Jonathan has agreed to support the existing managers on a two day a week basis – this is a remunerated position. I am pleased to report that these temporary arrangements are working well, and the staff have responded to the changes well too. Meetings which were to be attended by the CEO are now being covered by managers, Jonathan and myself.
4. At a meeting on 13th December NEDs agreed a process to find a new CEO. A subgroup of the Board would oversee this process and act as the interview panel. They are Ann Green, Jonathan Jelly and me. A Health and Care System leader would be asked to join the interview panel as an independent member. I am pleased to report that Kit Connick of the ICB has agreed to join the group. The closing date for applications is 26th January and interviews will be held on 13th February.

5. Our Healthwatch will be visited by the new Chair of Healthwatch England, Professor David Croisdale-Appleby, on the 8th and 9th of February. His visit will be based in the northern part of our area. At the time of writing the itinerary for his visit is being finalised but it will include attending our East Cambs/Fenland Forum, meeting managers, staff, and volunteers, attending a dinner with chairs of organisations that make up the Integrated Health System and meeting a local MP.

6. I am continuing to attend ICB Board and Strategic Development meetings as well as the joint Health and Wellbeing Board/Integrated Care Partnership meetings on behalf of Healthwatch. This is a difficult time for our Health and Care system which like all others is challenged by winter pressures, lack of staff and strikes. It is now essential that all sides get round the table and agree how normal working can be resumed. These strikes are now doing real harm to patients – the evidence is clear that future industrial action must be avoided.

7. At the Board meeting I agreed to bring back to this meeting proposed changes to NED terms. I recommend the following. That any NED who has not completed a full term of three years x2 can return to complete their term at the discretion of the Board without completing a full application process again. Also, that in exceptional circumstances a NED who has completed a full term in office may at the discretion of the Board be asked to serve a further term of two years. If the Board agrees these changes, we will ask for the advice of Azets on how to enact these decisions.

Action required by the Board.

The Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

The Board is asked to agree the Chairs proposal contained at point 7.

Author: Stewart Francis

17th January 2024

Appendix 1

Meetings attended by the Chair – 26th October 2023 – 24th January 2024

Meeting	Date
Huntingdonshire Health and Care Forum	7 th Nov
Healthwatch Summit wash up	8 th Nov
ICB Board meeting	10 th Nov
ICB Strategy development	10 th Nov
Healthwatch Board Development session	15 th Nov
Healthwatch CEO meeting	21 st Nov
Healthwatch CEO meeting	30 th Nov
Meeting with Leader of Peterborough City Council	4 th Dec
Meeting with Chair of CUH Trust	5 th Dec
Healthwatch NED meeting	7 th Dec
Meeting with PCC Chief Executive	8 th Dec
Healthwatch Board meeting in private	13 th Dec
ICB CEO meeting	8 th Dec
Healthwatch draft budget meeting	9 th Dec
Healthwatch GPG meeting	10 th Dec
ICB Population Health Meeting	11 th Dec
HWE Chairs meeting	11 th Dec
ICB Board meeting	12 th Dec
ICB Board meeting in private	12 th Dec
ICB Strategic Development	12 th Dec
Health and Wellbeing/Integrated Care Partnership Board meeting	19 th Dec