

# Chair's Board Report

Trust Board paper E

Over the last few weeks we have seen an increasing number of patients coming to our three hospitals for urgent or emergency care or being referred for planned care. In part this is a reflection of the rising number of people with Covid but also other reasons including respiratory problems. At the same time we are doing all we can to make sure that people who require routine care or operations get this as quickly as possible. You will hear more about the pressures on the Trust and the wider health and care system later in the meeting.

I would however like to thank staff and volunteers for the huge effort and commitment they continue to give to the people who come to us for care. It is vitally important that we do all we can to support staff across the Trust and also for us to support each other. I very much welcome the work being rolled out across the Trust to encourage people to talk and listen to each other through wellbeing conversations as well as the training being given to enable additional support and help to be provided where this is needed.

At the same time everyone who works at UHL knows that because of the pressures at the Trust patients are not always seen as quickly as we or they would wish. I want to acknowledge this but also to reassure patients that we continue to do everything we can to provide timely and high quality care. Over the last few weeks I have visited a number of services across the three hospitals and joined staff in discussions. I have been impressed by the work that I have seen, the ideas and plans to deliver care that both we and you would want to receive.

The development of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICS continues at pace. Following the confirmation that David Sissling is the Chair Designate of the LLR ICS, the process to appoint the ICS Chief Executive and Board level posts has begun. The next few months will be important in building on the work over the last couple of years and in setting out the way in which the NHS and Social Care will move to a collaborative way of working. The Trust, its senior leaders and clinicians have an important role in shaping this and in working closely with our partners to provide more integrated health and care.

Professor Philip Baker steps down as the University of Leicester's Representative on the UHL Board which he joined in 2016. Over the last five years as Pro-Vice Chancellor, Head of the College Life Sciences and Dean of Medicine, Philip has played a key role in strengthening and developing the relationship between UHL and the University. Joint initiatives with the Trust have markedly improved medical student experiences, resulting in a significant rise in student satisfaction and a doubling of retention of medical students to junior doctor posts locally. The establishment of a new School of Allied Health in response to UHL's needs and new programmes in midwifery, nursing, physiotherapy and radiography are important initiatives in providing tomorrow's workforce.

Leicester has also been remarkably successful in clinical research, in cardiovascular, respiratory and diabetes, and in the response to the pandemic. The NIHR Biomedical Research Centre is highly successful and Leicester has increased research funding proportionately more than any UK Centre.

These endeavours have culminated in Leicester being ranked in the top 20 for clinical medicine world-wide and fifth in the UK. The partnership between UHL and the University of Leicester is a critical element of these achievements.

I would like to thank Professor Baker for all his work over the last five years and to congratulate him on his appointment as Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research and Enterprise. I am also delighted to welcome Professor Thompson Robinson as the University's new representative on the University Hospitals of Leicester Trust Board following his appointment as the new Pro Vice-Chancellor, Head of College of Life Sciences and Dean of Medicine. I look forward to continuing to strengthen the partnership.

Finally Rebecca Brown steps down as Acting Chief Executive of UHL, a role she has discharged with passion, commitment and integrity. The last two years has seen Rebecca lead the Trust through the most difficult time the NHS has faced with the pandemic and, more recently as we seek to restore services many of which had been stood down during the early months of the pandemic. Her commitment to patients and her support for staff, volunteers and our partners has been unwavering and I know that she will be missed by everyone at UHL.

**John MacDonald**  
**Interim Chair**