The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

Meeting:	Board of Directors (in Public)		
Meeting Date:	1 June 2021	**Agenda item:**	7
Report Title:	Chairman's report		
Author:	Professor Steve Barnett, Trust Chairman		
Executive Sponsor:	N/A		

Implications					
Link to key strategic objectives *[highlight which KSO(s) this recommendation aims to support]*					
KSO1	**KSO2**	**KSO3**	**KSO4**	**KSO5**	**KSO6**
Safe and compassionate care	**Modernise hospital and estate**	**Staff engagement**	**Partnership working, clinical and financial sustainability**	**Healthy lives staff and patients**	**Investing in our staff**

Board assurance framework		
Significant risk register		
	Y/N	If Yes state impact/ implications and mitigation
Quality		
Legal and regulatory		
Financial		

Assurance route	
Previously considered by:	N/A

Executive summary					
Action required: *[highlight **one** only]*	Approval	**Information**	Discussion	Assurance	Review
Purpose of the report:	The paper informs the Board of key updates and developments during May 2021.				
Summary of Key issues:	This report summarises activity during May 2021, which includes an update on the ongoing work in relation to Place-based care, the Provider Collaborative and collaborative work underway in Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. It also includes updates on key Trust developments as well as our campaign to bring a new hospital to King's Lynn and West Norfolk.				
Recommendation:	The Board is asked to note this update.				
Acronyms					

Chairman's Report – June 2021

1. An outward-looking perspective

Collaborative work continues across the Norfolk and Waveney system and with wider system partners including Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Lincolnshire in relation to the further development of Place-based care with establishment of clear lines of communication with key stakeholders in all three areas, including agreed attendance at relevant operational delivery Boards. These closer linkages will enable QEH to ensure that it is having meaningful conversations around the delivery of pathways of care for all of the patients we serve across Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. Alongside this, we are looking to further strengthen our internal governance for all of the excellent work which is underway in relation to Place, with the establishment of a new internal oversight forum and a clear work plan.

At the Norfolk and Waveney Hospitals Group Committees meeting (10 May 2021) the Trust continued to lead proactively on the developing system thinking in relation to Provider Collaboration. I was pleased to join a briefing session, with other system leaders, to hear about the four-week engagement exercise that is underway about how organisations and partners will work together at a more local level, particularly the geographic areas in which we will work moving forward so that together, we can collectively make a positive difference to the local populations we serve.

A Tri Board meeting with the full Boards of QEH, James Paget University Hospitals and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital is planned for 25 May 2021, which is welcome. The meeting will provide an opportunity for Trusts to collectively reintroduce the Boards to each other to further build relationships, explore the common ground in relation to the acute Provider Collaboration and consider the nature of group leadership for a group model which has been agreed.

2. Cancer Wellbeing and Support Centre

The Trust's new £625,000 Cancer Wellbeing and Support Centre opened to patients on 17 May 2021. This means that patients and their families can now receive support and information following a cancer diagnosis in this state-of-the-art facility – marking another important development for QEH.

Funded by the Trust's Charitable Fund, this impressive facility is a welcoming space for patients to access non-clinical services with a specific focus on supporting the long-term impact of cancer. The services, which are provided by the Macmillan Information and Support Service, include general health and wellbeing advice, access to financial support, and to patient support groups, courses and events, such as the Macmillan Help to Overcome Problems Effectively (HOPE) course, within a safe and confidential environment.

3. New Hospital campaign

The Trust's campaign to bring a new hospital to King's Lynn and West Norfolk continues to attract significant attention and strong support from regional media, the local community, external stakeholders, partners and politicians, for which we are hugely grateful.

At the end of May 2021, West Norfolk MP James Wild addressed the House of Commons urging the Government to consider adding QEH to the list of hospitals being rebuilt. This was followed by a motion for Norfolk County Council on 24 May 2021 to call for the Government to agree to rebuild QEH being unanimously agreed at the annual meeting. We appreciate the support we have received from leaders and senior colleagues from the College of West Anglia, Healthwatch Norfolk, West Norfolk Borough Council and Norfolk County Council in-month and the 6,000 plus members of our local community who have signed an online petition, led by the Eastern Daily Press, in support of our case.

The Trust has started to develop its Strategic Outline Case to further strengthen the compelling case it submitted last year as part of the NHS's response to the Comprehensive Spending Review. With the support of our local community, QEH is determined to continue lobbying hard to position the Trust to be one of the further eight new hospitals to be built when the announcement is made later this year.

4. International Clinical Trials Day

We are hugely proud of our research team at the Trust and I was delighted to be part of the International Clinical Trials Day celebrations.

QEH hosted a successful online event with a great range of speakers, including Dr Lee Smith, Associate Professor Public Health at Anglia Ruskin University, Dr Simina Stefanescu, Consultant Dermatologist and Sophy Shedwell, Senior Research Nurse, to discuss the importance of research, what this means for the Trust and how we can all play a part.

5. The Chairman's diary

I attended the Chair's Acute Provider Collaborative meeting, the Committees in Common meeting, and the Finance and Activity Committee meeting last month.

I met with the Trust's Lead Governor Esmé Corner, and with Sue Holden, National Director of Intensive Support when she visited the Trust to see for herself the improvements we are making for our patients, their families and staff. I also attended the East of England Chair's sessions, and also the Tri-Board meeting for the three partner Trusts.

6. Looking ahead

It was a privilege to introduce the Trust's online event as our contribution to International Clinical Trials Day on 20 May. As well as referencing our important HEAL-COVID study, I was pleased to introduce Olawale Olanrewaju, the Trust's new Research Lead, who organised this impressive event. Our research cannot thrive in isolation and this event was a great opportunity to share challenges and opportunities, regionally and nationally, and to pay tribute to our many research partners and supporters, including the National Institute for Health Research who provide the Trust with so much support.

An important part of our recovery programme is to ensure that the Trust's estate is fully fit for purpose for both patients and staff. As well as progressing our Strategic Outline Case for a new hospital we will continue to support our external partners and stakeholders – the media, local authorities, the Integrated Care System in Norfolk and Waveney and other public bodies who press the case on our behalf. Our focus, as always, remains on ensuring that we provide the safest and best possible care and environment for our patients, our staff and all of the people in the communities we serve. We are entering a critical phase when our aim to provide the kind of sustainable and excellent facilities that our population deserves is being considered at the highest levels. We will do everything we can to turn our vision in to a reality that is consistent with the policy levers that are requiring a more integrated approach to long-term health and social care and wellbeing.