

**Meeting Assurance Report
Board of Directors
26 March 2024**

Name of Committee / Group	South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Acute Federation Board (SYBAF)
Date of Meeting	4 March 2024
Chair	Annette Laban, Chair
Lead Officer	Kirsten Major, Chief Executive
Meeting Administrator	Stephanie Marson, PA to Managing Director SYBAF

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide in summary an update on the key discussions and outcomes of the above meeting.

Agenda items covered at the meeting

The agenda included the following items:

- Chair's Update
- Lead Chief Executive's Update
- Managing Director's Update
- Elective and Diagnostics Recovery in 2023/24
- Integrated Care Board Update
- Proposed Priorities for 2024/25
- System Efficiency and Financial Planning
- Digital Convergence Update
- Pathology Programme Lessons Learnt

Matters to highlight

Specific areas to highlight are as follows:

- **Chair's Update** – The next Governor event was being planned for May/June 2024, which will provide Governors with the opportunity to engage with clinical leaders on a number of programmes and update new Governors on the work of the Acute Federation. Further system working with Governors was an area for further discussion locally with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) recognising that trusts remain the statutory bodies.
- **Lead Chief Executive's Update** – There had been presentations from each of the Professional Partnership Groups (PPG) feeding back from a recent event. Common themes included workforce, finance, digital technology enablers, and the need to share intelligence and opportunities as well as efficiencies. Capacity concerns had also been raised. It was reported that each PPG was developing well.

It was also discussed and agreed to undertake further work on: the relationship with the ICB and its role in commissioning, the Acute Federation Strategy to re-state the priorities alongside a roadmap for the future. A further Chief Executive's session would be held in June with the

intention to meet with workstreams and feedback on the Clinical Sustainability reviews to inform future work.

- **Managing Director's Update** – There was an update on progress against the five delivery priorities. The Acute Federation was also considering the priorities for the next financial year. The 2023/24 Annual Report would be presented at the May meeting for review and approval.

It was highlighted that South Yorkshire ICB was in the top three for system performance for patients waiting less than 65 weeks from referral to treatment and performance was above average for diagnostics, although acknowledged there was further work to do in these areas.

Work had commenced on the clinically led review of service sustainability, which would identify any fragile services that would benefit from collaborative working.

- **Elective and Diagnostics Recovery in 2023/24** – Kirsten Major provided an update, including the year end projection. It was expected there would be zero patients waiting over 104 weeks by the end of March 2024. It was predicted there would be breaches for 78 week and 65 week waits at the end of March 2024.

We also discussed the impact of industrial action on elective recovery. Diagnostics performance at the end of December 2023 was 80.7 per cent of patients seen within six weeks, this was positive when compared to the national average of 73 per cent.

The opening of the Sheffield Elective Orthopaedic Centre had helped reduce the number of 52-week breaches from 462 to 173. The Mexborough Elective Orthopaedic Centre had been impacted by two periods of industrial action, in addition to sickness absence, however there was a requirement that all three partner organisations focused on filling the lists to give full value to the insourcing model.

- **Integrated Care Board Update** – The ICB Chief Executive provided updates on; the national, regional and local focus on achieving Emergency Care 76 per cent performance of the 4-hour standard, and reported the national position for the past seven days was 72.6 per cent; the backlog in patients on Cancer pathways waiting longer than 62 days for initial treatment had risen, with 462 people waiting longer than 62 days for treatment. Elective recovery had seen the total waiting list in South Yorkshire reduce from 218,000 to 211,000, which was being seen in 65 and 52 week waits. The priority was to eliminate elective care waiting times of over 78 weeks by the end of the month, with fewer than 100 patients waiting across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB), although there were risks around patients waiting for corneal grafts due to availability of materials.

The first and second cut planning submissions for 2024/25 had been made, with the final submission due on 2 May.

- **Proposed Priorities for 2024/25** – The proposed priorities were presented and discussed; these were approved subject to any further comments from the System Delivery Group.
- **System Efficiency and Financial Planning** – An update was provided on the work to achieve consistency on financial planning in 2024/25 and better understand respective pressures across the system. A series of peer reviews across the five trusts were planned to understand the figures and underlying pressures, and the work would be aligned with the ICB submissions. There was recognition that spending was more than the system budget with no new monies for providers next year to offset this.
- **Digital Convergence Update** – A progress update was provided on digital convergence, with implementation well underway at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Digital convergence, and elective patient record (EPR), was a focus within the Acute Federation. We had discussed one partner's situation and conversations were happening to work out how to support a single instance of EPR for all the acute trusts in SYB.

- **Pathology Programme Lessons Learnt** – There was support to a proposal to carry out a Pathology Programme rapid lessons learnt review, which will inform future Acute Federation transformation and integration work.

New significant issues / concerns escalated including proposals on the next steps to address this

No items highlighted for escalation.

Implications

Aim of the STHFT Corporate Strategy		✓ Tick as appropriate
1	Deliver the Best Clinical Outcomes	✓
2	Provide Patient Centred Services	✓
3	Employ Caring and Cared for Staff	✓
4	Spend Public Money Wisely	✓
5	Create a Sustainable Organisation	✓
6	Deliver Excellent Research, Education and Innovation	✓

Recommendations

The Board of Directors is asked to **NOTE** the update provided and respond to any specific points raised within the report.