

Board of Directors (in Public)
22 May 2025
Agenda Item: 1.7



Report Title	Chair's Report	
Author	Martin Havenhand, Chair	
Accountable Director	Martin Havenhand, Chair	
Previous committees/groups	None	
Recommended action(s)	Information/Assurance	
Purpose of the paper	To brief Board members of the activity and stakeholder engagement undertaken by the air since the last report presented to the Board in Public on 27 March 2025.	
Executive Summary		
<p>The paper gives a summary of the following key items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) appointment of Chair• Non-Executive Director (NED) recruitment• Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) visit• Board Strategic Forum• Board member appraisals• Visit to North Yorkshire• Visits to our teams• Recognising volunteers		
Recommendation(s)	Note the update from the Chair's Report	
Link to Board Assurance Framework Risks (board and level 2 committees only)	<div>1. Deliver a timely response to patients.</div> <div>6. Develop and sustain an open and positive workplace culture.</div> <div>9. Develop and sustain improvements in leadership and staff training and development.</div>	

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Chair's Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report briefs Board members of the activity and stakeholder engagement undertaken by the Chair since the last report presented to Board of Directors in Public on 27 March 2025.

2.0 North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) appointment of Chair

- 2.1 I was invited to join the appointment panel for the Chair of NWAS on 7th April 2025.
- 2.2 The panel have made a recommendation to NHS England, and we are awaiting their final approval.

3.0 Non-Executive Director (NED) recruitment

- 3.1 As part of our succession planning, we have just concluded a NED recruitment campaign on 13th May with interviews being held during June/July.
- 3.2 I have had the pleasure of speaking with over 30 interested candidates and we have received 24 applications.
- 3.3 On 30 April Yorkshire Ambulance Service was a fundamental part of the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board virtual open evening which was held to promote Board Non-Executive and Associate Non-Executive vacancies in the system.

4.0 Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) visit

- 4.1 The Chair of AACE, (Jason Killens, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service) and Managing Director of AACE (Anna Parry), visited our our headquarters on 17th April as part of their programme of visits to all ambulance services.
- 4.2 It was an opportunity for our Executive Team to share experiences of how we are working with our partners in the region in supporting the delivery of the AACE strategy.

5.0 Board Strategic Forum

- 5.1 Our Board Strategic Forum on 24th April focused on some key issues in support of delivering our strategy and annual business plan for 2025/26.
- 5.2 Continuous improvement is a key theme of our plans this year and the board

participated in an excellent facilitated session on Quality Improvement which built on our work to date and outlined our plans to embed the approach throughout YAS. The session emphasised the importance of the role of the board collectively and directors individually to champion our Quality Improvement approach.

- 5.3 The importance of data and its analysis was addressed with a view to improvements being made over the next 3 to 12 months.

6.0 Board member appraisals

- 6.1 The first quarter of the new financial year (April to June) is the period when all senior leaders have their annual performance appraisals. In April and May, I conducted appraisals for our Chief Executive and our Non-Executive Directors and agreed the objectives for 2025/26 for our new Associate Non-Executive Directors.

7.0 Visit to North Yorkshire

- 7.1 On 29th April I visited Fairfield's offices and met with colleagues at our Emergency Operations Centre some of which had just completed their training on NHS Pathways in readiness for going live during May.
- 7.2 I then visited York Ambulance Station and then York Hospital Emergency Department to observe the excellent improvement work which has just started in respect of the 'handover of care' times from our ambulance crews to the hospital teams. The improving working relationships were clear to see. There are already improvements in patient care and our staff's health and wellbeing.
- 7.3 I also visited Scarborough Ambulance Station and then Jeevan Gill and I were taken by our Area Operations Manager to tour the new Emergency Department at Scarborough Hospital which opened for patients on 1st May.

8.0 Visits to our teams

- 8.1 I have had the opportunity to meet with our Passenger Transport Service senior operational team in advance of the introduction of the new eligibility criteria for access to the service.
- 8.2 While visiting the logistics centre I met with members of our procurement team, Medical Equipment Teams and the Vehicle Preparation supervisory and support team.
- 8.3 Our Associate Director of Estates and Facilities hosted my visit to Fleet and I had the opportunity to see several of our new vehicles which had recently been delivered.

9.0 Recognising volunteers

- 9.1 The Trust will be supporting Volunteers' Week, (2 to 8 June), and recognising the vital role that all our volunteers play across the Trust. Almost 1,000 volunteers give their time for the benefit of our patients and their local communities and Volunteers' Week gives the Trust the opportunity to express our gratitude to all our volunteers. We continue to develop the different types of roles available for volunteers and work to improve our support for them, which was recognised in our Investing in Volunteer recognition award which we received at the end of 2024.

10.0 Recommendation

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Board note the Chair's Report.