

REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD: PUBLIC
25 MARCH 2021

Title	Mental Health Committee 9 December 2020 – Chair’s Report
Committee Chair	Mark Lam, Committee Chair
Author	Cathy Lilley, Director of Corporate Governance

Purpose of the report

To bring to the Board’s attention key issues and assurances discussed at the Mental Health Committee meeting held on 9 December 2020.

Issues to be brought to Board’s attention

At its meeting on 9 December 2020, the Committee considered a range of items including:

- **AHM Appointments & Terminations:** There are no joiners or leavers and one AHM is taking a leave of absence.
- **Hospital Managers Hearings:** These have been taking place virtually during the pandemic although there has been a backlog; it was acknowledged how well AHMs have adapted to different ways of working.
- **Mental Health Law Monitoring Group:** This group has been established to provide assurance and review at how mental health law is applied at the Trust. The group had received a report focusing on Covid and the impact on Tribunals; and a general legal update report including a summary of changes to regulations.
- **Legal Update:**
 - The Liberty Protection Safeguards law has been passed but is not yet in force
 - The Mental Health Act white paper has been published and is open for consultation
 - The 2008 Hospital Treatment and Guardianship Regulations have changed following review in the summer in the light of Covid and came into effect in early December. They recognise the electronic transfer of statutory documents, and that documents can be served and signed electronically
 - The Hospitals Units Use of Force Act was due to come into force last year but has not been enacted. It is expected that this will be linked with the review of the MHA.
- **Jenny Kay, Non-Executive Director:** The acknowledged it was Jenny’s last meeting and thanked her for her significant contribution and support as Chair of the Committee.

Previous Minutes: The approved Minutes of the MHA Committee meeting held on 21 September 2020 are available on request by Board Directors from the Director of Corporate Governance.