



Board of Directors

subject	Chair's Report
Date of meeting	19 th July 2021
author	Jonathan Wells
purpose	For Discussion

1. Summary.

As Lois' report amply demonstrates, this has been another busy and profitable quarter for us, with an increasingly wide range of projects that we are either leading or contributing to. In her role as Executive Director Lois has been especially effective in recent months in taking forward significant programmes of work across our local mental health system. Completing the Co-production Best Practice Guidance and co-chairing the local NHS Co-production Collaborative are two major examples that spring to mind.

Most importantly, such pieces of work have the potential to drastically improve the effectiveness and pace with which the local mental health and substance misuse system develops and improves the services provided. I would say it is now fully accepted that this is the expected outcome when people using services are fully engaged from start to finish in making them better.

This remains our fundamental objective. It is at the heart of what we all do – both our growing team and our growing Board of Directors. We are well placed to drive forward this agenda over the rest of the year, making sure that as CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) morph into ICSs (Integrated Care Systems), the focus on quality of services is not lost.

2. Achievements.

Alongside the positive examples in Lois' report, I would like to highlight the following:

- As our positive reputation has spread, we have been able to take on new roles; the project to engage with multiply disadvantaged individuals – comprising many of the most vulnerable in our communities – is one example of this. Homelessness, uncertain private tenancies, and fragmented statutory services still come together to prevent people leading their lives to the full, and I'm looking forward to hearing more about the impact this new project makes
- Our high profile locally means that we are definitely the "go to" agency now when it comes to all aspects of co-production in health and social care. I believe we have real credibility now because of our track record, and an ever-increasing set of positive working relationships with colleagues on which we can build



- It is note-worthy that such progress has been achieved at a time when “in person” activity and spontaneous interactions with other agencies as well as people with lived experience have continued to be very limited because of covid. I am proud that we have looked after each other well though this extraordinary period in all our lives. The negative impact of covid and the rules in response to it on so many people’s mental health guarantees that our work will be even more important in the months and years to come

3. Challenges.

Challenges are good. An effective Board is one which keeps asking questions about how the organisation goes about its business and how it can be more efficient and effective. So for me, I am keen that as the range and importance of our work continues to increase, so does the willingness of the organisation to look hard at what we do and how we can do it better.

Externally, I believe we need to monitor closely the impact of the major reorganisation going on this year as CCGs become fully fledged ICSs by April 2022, (as mentioned earlier). There are risks that key partners at the CCG and the local authorities may neglect the “business as usual” aspects of their roles. It is also possible that over-arching governance structures may change in ways that do no favours to the mental health aspects of the system.

In the end, our key working relationships locally are robust enough for us to be able to navigate these changes, but our close attention will be required.