



## Board of Directors

<b>subject</b>	Chair's Report
<b>Date of meeting</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
<b>author</b>	Jonathan Wells
<b>purpose</b>	For Discussion

This quarter I am providing a summary report only in recognition of the detail in Lois' report which I do not need to repeat.

In the past quarter we have got over some covid episodes in the team and are now back to full strength and concentrating more and more on in-person contact with people with lived experience so that their views can be heard. Our new work with older people with mental health issues officially started on 1<sup>st</sup> April and I am delighted we have this opportunity to help this sometimes unheard group speak up about their experience. Some new ways of working for us will be required and I hope this will be of benefit to the whole team as we seek to continuously improve our repertoire of skills in communicating well with all groups of service users.

It is encouraging that our new 3-year strategy – which we formally sign off today- has been well received by partner organisations. I am confident that the Board will support the team to implement the new actions we have given ourselves so that more people have more of a say in how services can be improved.

I am keeping a close eye on the local transition from a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to an Integrated Care System (ICS). As an organisation we are closely involved in these developments through the various CCG-led Mental Health Boards. I believe there is a risk that in the next couple of years these internal changes will preoccupy commissioners to the extent that urgent service improvements take second place. In The SUN Network we will ensure that our partner agencies are regularly reminded of the gaps in mental health substance misuse and other services that need addressing without delay.