



subject	Chair's Report
Date of meeting	22 nd January 2024
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purpose	For Discussion

This brief report complements the operational report by Lois and gives an overview of what has been happening at a strategic level for The SUN Network in quarter 3 2023/24.

Around older people with mental health issues, it is good to see that we are making steady progress in enabling those who need and/or use these services to speak up. We are equally keen to hear from people with anxiety disorders and depression – where the proportion of all over 65s with such disorders is very high – as from those with dementia.

Our work continues in the other traditional areas.

Lois and Vickie have put a lot of effort into the review of the Keep Your Head website, with the result that we are now the content managers for the adult mental health, children and young people's mental health and professionals' sections. This expansion of Vickie's highly regarded role will need to be supported by extra funding from the ICB.

Lois continues to co-chair the local Mental Health Learning Disabilities and Autism Co-production Collaborative which has its well-established place within the Accountable Business Unit. It can still be hard to achieve co-production in its full sense, which means that much needed improvements to a range of mental health services remain hard to achieve. We continue to send our quarterly Executive Director reports to commissioners so that the themes of what people are telling us are widely shared.

We have taken our role as the experts in co-production to the next level by launching a new website dedicated to this crucial subject.

In terms of governance, I was sorry to miss the announcement at the Hunts Forum AGM late last year of our success in achieving the Good To Go award following the review we commissioned from them. This provides assurance to our partners and commissioners that our internal procedures reflected in our set of policies are of good quality.

On the Board, our recruitment of a new chair to replace myself is progressing.