

Schedule 4: Narrative/Announcement

Despite what has been a tough financial climate; the time that Tony Chambers was CEO have been eventful and demonstrably successful for both the trust and the wider health and care system in West Cheshire; and relationships with partners and wider stakeholders has been professional, open and transparent. Under Tony's leadership we have continually and successfully shaped the ambition, values, style and tone of the organisation to match the challenges we face; anchored around the relentless focus on both positive staff and patient experience.

Some of the headline achievements include: modernised facilities for endoscopy, intensive care, day surgery, New neonatal facilities, Phased A&E redevelopment; the first hospital to install a fully functioning Co-ordination Centre that includes: real time patient and asset tracking; acuity workforce and e-rostering and A&E live dashboards; hosting and governance arrangements for the West Cheshire Integrated Care Partnership; EPR fast follower and EPR procurement; Education including Post Graduate Clinical MD, NIHR approval as Hyper Acute Stroke Research Centre and a GOOD rating in CQC comprehensive assessment.

Tony's stepping down as CEO at the Countess is as a result of extraordinary circumstances and is not a judgement on his ability as a CEO but more a reflection of his integrity as a leader. From the point that we became aware of these issues Tony led the executive team to ensure the safe working of our Neonatal Unit and to commission both internal and external independent investigations into neonatal deaths at the Trust.

These investigations into neonatal deaths at the trust have escalated over the past 2 years and inevitably put relations between senior management and paediatricians under exceptional strain. The Trust needed to be able plan for the future and the risk of ongoing strained relations would not have been in the best interest of the trust and the wellbeing of staff and patients.

We are therefore grateful for Tony's leadership over the past 6 years and for his thoughtfulness for agreeing to step aside to allow the trust to focus on the future.