

Directors' statement of compliance with duty to promote the success of the Company

The Board of Directors consider, both individually and together, that they have acted in the way they consider in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole (having regard to the stakeholders and the matters set out in s172 of the Companies Act 2006) in the decisions taken during the year ended 31 March 2023.

The success of the Company is dependent on the support of all stakeholders. Working with stakeholders that share our values is important to us, towards shared long term goals for sustainable success.

The Board and senior leadership team make decisions with a long term view in mind and with the highest of standards of conduct in line with our policies. Reports across all areas of the business are regularly made available to the Board to allow key decisions to be made with proper consideration and to assess the impact of decisions on stakeholders. The Company recognises that the ownership structure demands an important role in maximising the value and benefit to the NHS and wider community beyond economic gain.

The Board ensures that there is an effective culture that promotes the success of the Company, ensures the values and strategy align with the purpose of the Company, effectively identifies and builds on opportunities, and fosters effective stakeholder relationships. We have an open dialogue with our shareholders through group meetings, joint stakeholder meetings and committees, one to one meetings and Board to Board meetings, covering a wide range of subject matters. The shareholder views and feedback are considered as part of decision making.

We engage with our people as highlighted in the 'Engagement with Employees' within the Directors Report. Key focus areas have been employee pay and we are pleased to continue supporting one of our primary goals in the payment of the Real Living Wage as a minimum for all staff, along with a strong emphasis on health and safety throughout the organisation. The Directors and senior leadership team meet periodically throughout the year with trade unions officials and staff representatives for meaningful conversation and information sharing on matters affecting the Company.

We have built a strong service orientated relationship with our primary customer, with the focus being around their requirements whilst mindful of the financial challenges of an NHS Trust. We strive to drive continuous improvement and innovation into our operations to drive long term relationships across each area of the business. To achieve this, the Directors and senior leadership team take the time to understand the real and perceived need of our primary customer.

The Board recognises that our suppliers are integral to the success of the business and it is therefore essential that we build strong relationships in an ethical manner whilst meeting stringent quality, performance and delivery requirements. We aim to treat all fairly whilst ensuring their compliance with our high standards. Before engagement, we review their policies to ensure they match ours as set by the Board. The Company has a number of senior qualified procurement officers and managers that are experienced in supplier relationship management and procurement. As part of the Company's service offering the Company offers a fully compliant NHS framework procurement and supplier contract management service. The Company ensures that we pay suppliers in line with commercially agreed payment terms. We have a strong code of conduct and policies in relation to Anti Bribery and Corruption and Modern Slavery legislation.

We recognise the important role that our company plays in the local community. Social value principles are at the heart of the business, with a focus on creating opportunities in local employment and improving our environmental credentials.

The Company has appointed relevant expert advisors to ensure that the Board are aware of, and the Company aims to meet, all relevant obligations in regard to laws and regulations whilst identifying potential opportunities and risks for the business.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf.

P W Ryder

Director

Date: 5 December 2023