

6. INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (AGM)

1. Purpose of the report

To up-date Members of key items since the previous Authority meeting on 4th February 2022.

2. Recommendation

1. For Members to note the report.

3. Key Items

Interim CEO arrangements - please note that from 7 March 2022 the following interim arrangement will be in place to cover the CEO role:

- Interim Chief Executive: Andrea McCaskie
- Deputy Chief Executive: Emily Fox
- Assistant Chief Executives: Suzanne Fletcher and Justine Wells

Return to the workplace – Throughout the pandemic we have followed government guidance. In doing so, we have also taken our time to consider how it applies to us and consult with our staff representatives before taking action. Given that the official guidance to work from home has now lifted, and there is no government requirement or recommendation to limit workplace capacity, we have taken the following stepped approach to returning:

- From 7th February - we recommenced step one of the return to the workplace principles; this means that those in appropriate roles can currently work up to 60% of their contracted hours at home.
- From 14th February - Aldern House reopened to the public with reception opening (using the new intercom system) and the main gates open during working hours.
- From 4th April - we will move to the next step of the return to the workplace principles, meaning that those in appropriate roles can work up to 40% of their contracted hours at home.

We are asking staff to return to the workplace in this way as we recognise and have had feedback that being back in the workplace gives rise to more connected teams and workforce, and this in turn benefits the achievement of the outcomes we seek as an organisation. We also recognise blended working, with an opportunity to work from home can offer staff a benefit to their wellbeing. This is why we are trialling this blended approach and will continue this trial until December 2022, at which point we can take a view about future approaches.

I also am fully aware that a significant number of our colleagues have been out working with the public throughout this period, and have not had the option of working at home that many of us have had. My thanks go to them.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Andrea McCaskie, Interim Chief Executive, 10 March 2022