



TRUST BOARD COVER SHEET

	<p><i>The cover sheet purpose is to provide the Trust Board/Committee with a clear summary of the paper being presented, how it impacts on the people we serve, key matters for attention and the ask of the Trust Board/Committee</i></p> <p><i>The Accountable Director must satisfy themselves that the cover sheet is accurate and fully reflects the paper. The expectation is that the Accountable Director has read and agreed the content of both the cover sheet and paper.</i></p>	
Meeting and Date of meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">Trust Board Thursday 27th November 2025</p>	
Title of paper	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair update to Trust Board</p>	
Accountable Director	Name	<p style="text-align: center;">Eileen Mullan</p>
	Position	<p style="text-align: center;">Trust Board Chair</p>
Report Author	Name	<p style="text-align: center;">Eileen Mullan</p>
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This paper sits within the Trust Board role of:	<p style="text-align: center;">Accountability</p>	
This paper is presented for:	<p style="text-align: center;">Information <i>(Notes on completion at end of document)</i></p>	
Links to Trust Strategic Priorities 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Collaborative Working</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Learning Organisation</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Safety, Quality & Experience</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Community First</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Whole-Life Approach</p>

1. Extension to the Appointment of Interim Chief Executive

We were pleased to welcome Steve Spoerry to the Southern HSC Trust as interim Chief Executive in March of this year. Steve joined us from England having worked for many years in senior leadership roles across the NHS in England. Steve's initial appointment had been planned for a period of 12 to 15 months. I am delighted to confirm that the Trust Board has now agreed to extend Steve's appointment until **31st March 2027**.

Since joining us, Steve has provided strong, confident leadership, helping us to strengthen our focus on delivering safe, high-quality care, through what is an extremely challenging financial climate. I know many of you will have met Steve in the last 6 months. The Board is delighted that this continuity will allow us to maintain momentum as we take forward our strategic priorities. This extension ensures stability and clarity for our teams as we continue to improve our services and strengthen collaboration across our organisation and the wider system.

The Board will be seeking to commence the search for a permanent Chief Executive during the latter part of 2026.

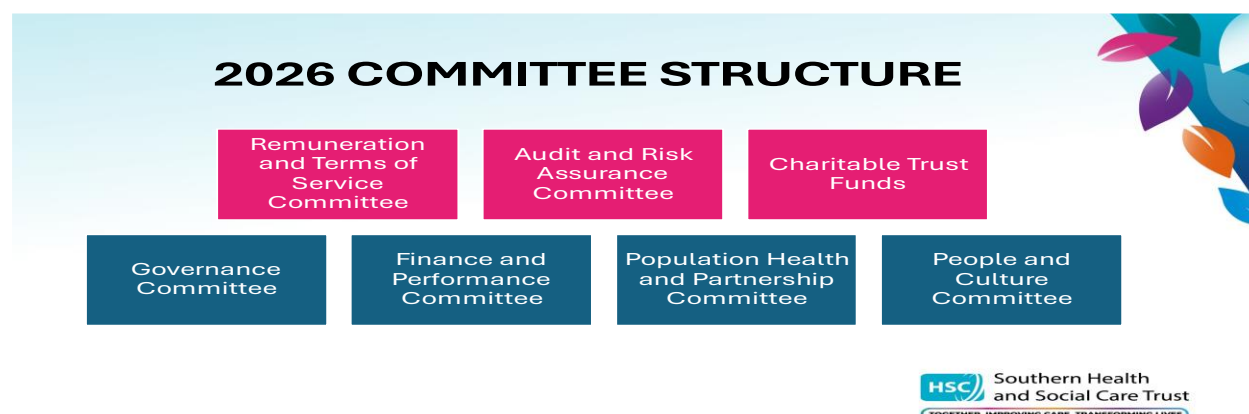
2. McBride/Hill Report 2025

The Minister published the McBride/Hill Report into the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Mr Peter McBride and Dr Jennifer Hill, were commissioned by the Minister as external experts to provide support to the Belfast Trust as they formulated their response to the DCO report on Cardiac Surgery, and to report to The Minister on broader issues for improvement and assurance across the whole of the trust. The report can be accessed [HERE](#).

The report contains a suite of recommendations for Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and its Board. Whilst the focus is on Belfast Trust, it is applicable to all Health and Social Care Trusts and Boards across the public sector. To support this, the Southern Trust is considering the report and recommendations.

3. Trust Board Committee Review

The Trust Board has undertaken a review of its standing committees of Trust Board. The outworking of this review includes the establishment of a dedicated 'People and Culture Committee,' along with a committee focused on 'Population Health and Partnership'. The work of former committees (patient and service user experience, strategy, and transformation) will be considered across the committee structure and Trust Board.



All committees will be working under revised terms of reference from January 2026.

4. Ministerial Statements and Assembly Health Committee

Ministerial Statements and Question Time

05 th November	Written statement – The Publication of three cervical cytology screening related reports
03 rd November	Question Time Health - Monday 03 November 2025
06 th November	Question Time Health – Monday 06th October 2025
22 nd October	Written statement – Update on the DoH Level 5 Performance Accountability Process for Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee for Health –Thursday 13 November 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee for Health –Thursday 06 November 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee for Health - Thursday 23 October 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee for Health - Thursday 16 October 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee for Health - Thursday 09 October 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee for Health - Thursday 02 October 2025

5. HSC NI Chairs meeting with the Minister of Health

Meeting held on the 19th of November. Areas discussed included the 25/26 budget, financial landscape going into 26/27 pay parity, McBride/Hill Report and boardroom leadership for reset and beyond.

6. Chair and Non-Executive Directors Engagements

These can be found within the papers for information section of the meeting pack.

7. Trust Highlights

I encourage Board members and those interested in the work of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to take some time to read the Trust Highlights November 2025 document which can be found in the papers for information section of the meeting pack.

8. Papers for information

- Papers included in the information section of the meeting pack include:
- Approved Minutes of the Finance, Performance and Workforce Committee 08/09/2025
- Approved Minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee 09/10/2025
- Audit and Risk Assurance Committee work programme 2026
- Approved Minutes of the Charitable Trust Funds Committee 20/10/2025
- Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Funds Committee 2024/25
- Charitable Trust Funds Committee work programme 2026
- Approved Governance Committee Minutes 04/09/2025
- Approved Minutes of the Patient and Service User Experience Committee 11/09/2025
- Trust Highlights November 2025
- Trust Board Electronic Vote – Approval of Trust Bank Mandate