# Press Release – for immediate release | 31 January 2022

**QEH Chairman leaving to join North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust**

The Chairman of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Professor Steve Barnett, is leaving the Trust to become Chairman of his local hospital.

Professor Barnett has been instrumental in leading The Queen Elizabeth Hospital’s journey of improvement since 2018 – with so many impressive results to show for patients, their families and staff. He will join North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust as Chairman in April 2022.

Lead Governor for The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Esme Corner OBE, said: “On behalf of the Council of Governors, I would like to thank Professor Barnett for his hard work and dedication to the QEH over the last three and a half years. The Trust is unrecognisable from where we started in 2018, with year-on-year improvements to patient and staff experience and the Trust’s financial position.”

“Under Professor Barnett’s leadership, the Trust has recruited an experienced Board of Directors, significantly strengthened its risk management, Board assurance and governance processes, at £30m for 2021/22 secured more investment to modernise the hospital than ever before, has much-improved partner and stakeholder relationships and has progressed the hospital’s case to bring a much-needed new hospital to King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, to give a few examples. We now look forward to receiving the Trust’s latest Care Quality Commission inspection report, following initial positive feedback, and to starting the next phase of our journey of improvement.”

Professor Barnett said: “It has been a privilege to work with so many talented and committed colleagues at QEH. I’m confident that the foundations for effective and sustainable improvements are very much in place and I know that I will be leaving the Trust in the very safest of hands. When I reflect on just how far QEH has come over the last three to four years, I am nothing but proud of everything QEH has achieved, not least the year-on-year improvements to the quality of care and safety and our financial position. It’s fair to say that QEH is well on the way to achieving its vision of becoming the best rural District General Hospital for patient and staff experience and I have every confidence that this tremendous organisation will only go from strength to strength.”

Recruitment is underway for Professor Barnett’s replacement.

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