

# CONNECTING with our communities



**As a council of governors for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust we felt we could do more to meaningfully engage with our broader communities.**

**Initially, we attended local events in our more disadvantaged communities**

**to help promote the benefits of the Covid-19 vaccination, encourage people to register with a GP and support local food clubs.**

**We worked with our local Healthwatch to ensure we ask the right questions of our communities; most recently – how would you access mental health services? The responses were varied and provided useful feedback. We also linked with our council for voluntary services (CVS), which proved helpful in identifying many other groups, including those representing the disadvantaged within our communities.**

**In addition, we supported our local college in running a careers showcase as we are keen to enrol more members from the younger age group and this was a perfect opportunity to engage. Hopefully this will eventually lead to a youth governor on the council of governors.**

**We have also expanded our successful Meet Your Governor events, where we talk to patients, carers, visitors, and staff, from our local communities.**

**We have developed relationships with governors from other organisations within our integrated care system, with the goal of holding joint Meet Your Governor events to better understand all our communities and how governors can support them in ensuring all services provided across our health system are responsive to community needs.**