Meet our Executive Directors



Chief People Officer and Deputy Chief Executive: Emma Wood

Emma is an experienced executive whose specialisms include employee relations and engagement, inclusion, organisational design and development, resourcing and talent development. With a strong track record across both the private and public sector, Emma previously

worked at South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust as well as Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Emma holds a BA in Psychology and Education and an MSC in Integrated Professional Practice from UWE. She is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and an Executive Coach.

Emma joined the Trust on 4 January 2022.



Interim Chief Medical Officer: Dr Rebecca Maxwell

Dr Rebecca (Becky) Maxwell has been appointed to the role of Interim Chief Medical Officer from 1 January 2024. Dr Maxwell has significant clinical experience working as an Emergency Department Consultant, Clinical Chair and as Deputy Medical Director in the Chief Medical Officer team.



Chief Nurse and Midwife: Professor Deirdre Fowler

Professor Deirdre Fowler is an experienced executive chief nurse and midwife who has worked in community, acute and academic settings throughout her 30 years in healthcare. Deirdre has a broad range of leadership experience and passions, such as introducing clinical accreditation models in acute settings and developing clinical academic models for nurses, midwives and AHPs. She most recently worked in the North East before joining University Hospitals Bristol and Weston. In 2022, Deirdre was awarded the title of Visiting Professor by the

University of the West of England. She is also a Trustee of the Bristol and Weston Hospital Charity Board.

Deirdre joined the Trust on 18 January 2021.



Executive Managing Director Weston General Hospital: Paula Clarke

Paula joined the NHS as a general management trainee and over the last 30 years has held senior manager posts in commissioning, provider and primary care organisations, working predominantly in the integrated health and social care system in Northern Ireland. Paula has over 12 years of experience at Board level, including serving as the interim chief executive of Southern Health and Social Care Trust in 2015/16. Paula has extensive experience in integrated care delivery, strategic planning,

continuous improvement, partnership working and service transformation programmes.

Paula joined the Trust on 1 April 2016



Chief Operating Officer: Jane Farrell

Jane has experience of working in and across large complex organisations and systems, including 19 years as an executive director. Her previous roles have included Executive Managing Director, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Transformation and COO across NHS organisations including Kings College Hospitals, Mid & South Essex FT, and Western Sussex Hospitals. Jane is a dual registered nurse, specialising in paediatric critical care.

Jane joined UHBW on 31 October 2022 as Interim Chief Operating Officer and was appointed on a permanent basis from 1 April 2023.



Chief Financial Officer: Neil Kemsley

Neil trained and qualified at The Trust before leaving in 1998 to progress his career through the finance ranks at University College London hospitals, Kings and then Portsmouth. Neil has over 15 years' experience as a Board director working across the provider, commissioning and regulatory sectors of the NHS. More recently he spent three-and-a-half years at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust before returning to Bristol.

Neil joined the Trust on 1 July 2019.



Joint Chief Digital Information Officer: Neil Darvill

Neil has Board level responsibility for Digital Information at both University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust and North Bristol NHS Trust. Neil has over 30 years' of experience working in healthcare environments.

Neil is responsible for setting and driving forward the IM&T Strategy at both Trusts and developing key partnerships with suppliers and customers alike to ensure targets and expectations are met, year on year.

Neil joined the Trust on 1 June 2023.