Midlands Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

We are MPFT

Trust Board Briefing October 2026

A summary of what MPFT's Board discussed and what it means



Board Briefing – October 2026

Highlights from the Trust Board meeting on 8 October 2026

Chair and Chief Executive update

October's Board meeting reflected both the progress being made across MPFT and the opportunities ahead as we look to improve how care is delivered for our communities.

Our ambitions to become an Advanced Foundation Trust continue to develop, alongside discussions with NHS partners and others about a potential role for MPFT in bringing health and social care services closer together, building on the success of our Section 75 agreement with Staffordshire County Council. This could provide an important opportunity to support more joined-up, preventative care closer to home.

The Board also celebrated national recognition for our Community Heart Failure Service, which won Patient Safety Pilot Project of the Year at the HSJ Patient Safety Awards. The award recognises innovative work helping people to manage their condition more confidently, improving quality of life and reducing hospital admissions. It's a fantastic example of the difference our teams are making through more preventative, community-based care.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on supporting colleagues, maintaining high-quality services and making sure that the changes we pursue deliver real benefits for the people and communities we serve.

This briefing shares some of the key discussions and priorities from the meeting with colleagues, Governors and partners. We hope that you find it both useful and informative.

Jackie and Neil

What stood out this month

MPFT continues to perform strongly, with our latest national performance results providing further recognition of the work taking place across the Trust. We have retained our position in the highest-performing segment of the NHS Oversight Framework and risen to 7th nationally in our comparison group.

The Trust remains on plan financially and continues to forecast a break-even position for the year. The Board welcomed this while recognising the importance of delivering sustainable efficiencies and achieving recurrent financial balance over the longer term, in line with our longer-term financial strategy.

There was also positive assurance about the safety of our inpatient staffing arrangements, with improvements in staffing levels and a significant reduction in reliance on agency workers. Progress was reported across a number of workforce equality measures, alongside continued work to support colleague wellbeing, improve staff experience and reduce sickness absence.

Across our services, the Board heard encouraging examples of improvement, including better access to children's mental health services and continued investment in frontline care. Increasing demand, capacity pressures and waiting times remain important areas of focus.

Overall, the message was one of building on MPFT's strengths, celebrating progress and continuing to improve the quality, safety and experience of care for the communities we serve.

👥 Our people and culture

The Board welcomed progress in our Workforce Race Equality and Workforce Disability Equality Standards, with improvements in representation, recruitment and a number of measures of colleague experience. There was also recognition that more needs to be done to ensure everyone has equitable opportunities and feels valued, respected and supported at work. Work is continuing to strengthen inclusive recruitment practices, career development opportunities and the support available to managers.

Supporting colleague health and wellbeing remains an important priority, particularly as sickness absence continues to be higher than we would like. Further work is underway to understand the underlying causes and strengthen the support available to colleagues and managers. The Board also welcomed plans to bring together staff experience, culture and quality information to help identify where improvements can make the greatest difference in this important area.

🩺 Quality and safety of care

The Board received substantial assurance about the safety of our inpatient staffing arrangements, with improvements in staffing levels and reduced reliance on temporary workers. Further investment in permanent nursing staff at St George's and the Redwoods will help strengthen continuity of care and support colleagues working on our wards.

There was also positive assurance about our regulatory compliance, including progress in responding to Mental Health Act visits and continued engagement with the Care Quality Commission. The Board discussed how clinical audit activity can be better prioritised, with a stronger focus on learning, completing improvement actions and demonstrating the difference they make to patient safety and quality of care.

The Board also heard positive feedback from people using our services, with Friends and Family Test satisfaction levels remaining above 90% and nine out of ten concerns handled through our early resolution process resolved at the first stage.

📊 Performance and finance

The Trust remains on plan financially at month five and continues to forecast a break-even position for the year. Good progress has been made in delivering efficiency savings, with £11.9 million achieved against a £12 million target so far this year, although further work is needed to ensure these improvements are sustainable over the longer term. The Board welcomed the progress while maintaining its focus on recurrent financial balance and planning for the years ahead.

Operational performance also remains strong in many areas, with improvements in community waiting times and the speed of support provided to people experiencing a mental health crisis. Work continues to strengthen our performance reporting, giving the Board and services a clearer picture of where we are doing well, where improvement is needed and the impact of actions being taken. This will help ensure that improvement efforts are targeted where they can make the greatest difference for patients and service users.

🧭 How well we are governed

The Board received substantial assurance about our medical appraisal arrangements, with 99% compliance and improvements in how the Trust supports and oversees the appraisal and revalidation of doctors. The Board approved the annual report for submission to NHS England, alongside further work to strengthen the quality and consistency of appraisals.

There was also continued attention to the importance of protecting confidential patient information, ensuring colleagues understand their responsibilities and that appropriate safeguards are in place. Looking ahead, the Board recognised the importance of maintaining clear accountability, effective oversight and appropriate governance arrangements as we explore new ways of working more closely with health and care partners. This includes ensuring that any new responsibilities are clearly understood, appropriately managed and supported by effective assurance.