

TRUST BOARD IN PUBLIC		Date: 26th October 2017	
		Agenda Item: 6.4	
REPORT TITLE:		Council of Governor's Update	
EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:		Gillian Francis-Musanu Director of Corporate Affairs	
REPORT AUTHOR (s):		Gillian Francis-Musanu Director of Corporate Affairs	
REPORT DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY: (name of sub-committee/group & date)		Shadow Council of Governors meeting	
Action Required:			
Approval ()	Discussion (√)	Assurance (√)	
Purpose of Report:			
To provide an update on the work of the shadow council of governors.			
Summary of key issues			
<p>The Council of Governors meeting took place on 18th April 2017. The meeting was quorate and attended by both elected, nominated governors and Executive and Non-Executive Directors. The key areas of focus for this meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust update • Feedback from Governor Workshop (29.09.17) • Proposal for nomination of Co-ordinating governor • Review of Draft Patient & Public Engagement Strategy • Review of Involvement Opportunities for Governors • Feedback from Individual Governors • Governor Briefing <p>There was good debate and discussion on a range of areas.</p>			
Recommendation:			
The Board is asked to note the report.			
Relationship to Trust Strategic Objectives & Assurance Framework:			
SO5: Well led - To be a high quality employer of choice and deliver financial and clinical sustainability around a patient centred, clinically led leadership model.			
Corporate Impact Assessment:			
Legal and regulatory impact	A Council of Governors is a statutory requirement for an NHS Foundation Trust and forms part of the governance structure		
Financial impact	N/A		
Patient Experience/Engagement	A significant and important part of the role of the Council of Governors		
Risk & Performance Management	Relevant aspects included in the report		
NHS Constitution/Equality & Diversity/Communication	Important to the role and function of the Council of Governors		

Attachment: N/A

TRUST BOARD REPORT –26th October 2017 UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

1. Introduction

The Shadow Council of Governors (SCoG) held its 8th meeting on 17th October 2017. The meeting was attended by elected, staff and nominated governors as well as two non-executive directors, three executive directors, head of corporate governance and head of communications.

1.2 Main Agenda Items

The following items were discussed:

Trust update: The chief executive gave an overview of the Trusts quality, performance indicators, financial performance and preparedness for winter. Governors were keen to hear about the implementation of Smoke free SASH and other local developments taking place throughout the Trust including the flu vaccination campaign and the plans for completion of the current national staff survey. An update was given on the development of facilities across the Trust, including the Emergency Department.

Areas that governors would like information at a future meeting to include Education & Training strategy, Health & wellbeing strategy, Inclusion Strategy and a presentation from the Organ Donation Committee.

Feedback from Governor Workshop: The Governor Workshop was held as planned on the 29th September. The workshop was facilitated by NHS Providers GovernWell Team who invited Jon Walmsley, Lead Governor from the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS FT to share his experiences of being a governor. Eight governors attended the workshop and were joined by the Chairman, Senior Independent Director, Director of Corporate Affairs & Company Secretary, NED Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee and the Head of Corporate Governance.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- Further develop understanding of role (unique to the Trust)
- Consider the difference between assurance and reassurance and the role of Critical friend
- Getting to know you opportunity
- To explore the role of lead governor
- Identify ways of working for the Council of Governors (COG)

There were a number of areas of agreement on developing the role of governors going forward:

- Developing the role of co-ordinating (lead) governor
- Holding governor-only pre-meetings
- Consideration of the need for governor-led sub-groups – Engagement was agreed
- Reviewing governor involvement opportunities
- A governor briefing sheet to enable clear and concise sharing of messages
- Raising the profile of the role of governors internally and externally

Overall the workshop was very beneficial to all who attended and provided both an opportunity both for governors to get to know each other better and to explore ways in which the role should be developed.

Proposal for nomination of a co-ordinating governor: The Director of Corporate Affairs presented the revised proposal for the nomination of a co-ordinating governor which was agreed by the Council as follows:

- To work with the Chair to facilitate effective relationships between the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors
- To act as a liaison between the Council of Governors, the Chair and Director of Corporate Affairs
- To support new governors
- Leading governor only meetings
- Coordinating consultation of views from governors
- To meet routinely with the Chair and the Director of Corporate Affairs to contribute to the planning and preparation of the agenda for Council of Governors meetings

The co-ordinating (lead) governor should be:

- appointed from amongst the elected public and patient governors
- appointed for an initial period of one year
- able to demonstrate experience of chairing meetings effectively
- able to demonstrate negotiation skills and experience
- able to seek and represent the views of other Governors

The timescale for the nomination of the co-ordinating governors was also agreed and this individual should be in place by January 2018.

Review of Draft Patient & Public Engagement (PPE) Strategy: The Director of Corporate Affairs shared an overview of the current draft PPE strategy. Governors were pleased to have the opportunity to input into the strategy and were also encouraged to hear that this was being shared with voluntary and community organisations as well as key stakeholders in health and social care. Governors asked whether this could be a good opportunity to invite Healthwatch to share their work with the Council in the future. A number of suggestions were made that could be included in the strategy including the work the trust currently undertakes around research, education and training.

Review of Involvement Opportunities for Governors: Governors reviewed the current and new involvement and engagement opportunities within the Trust. A good discussion was had around the new opportunities such as co-production in relation to respiratory services, the complaints review panel and site visits.

Feedback from Individual Governors: Governors provided a range of feedback on their recent activities including the Trusts way-finding working group, health and wellbeing, organ donation committee, patient experience site visits, smokefree SASH.

Governor Briefing: The Head of Communication shared the first governor briefing note and this was discussed by the Council. Some suggestions were made as to the frequency of production and also ways in which the governor profile could be raised both internally and externally.

2. Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the report from the Council of Governors.

Gillian Francis-Musanu
Director of Corporate Affairs & Company Secretary
October 2017