

Council of Governors: Summary Sheet

Title of Paper: Development of Council of Governors

Presented By: Jayne Brown OBE, Chair

Action Required:

For Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Ratification	<input type="checkbox"/>	For a decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Feedback	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vote required	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Receipt	<input type="checkbox"/>

To which duty does this refer:

Holding non-executive directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the Board	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointment, removal and deciding the terms of office of the Chair and non-executive directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Determining the remuneration of the Chair and non-executive directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointing or removing the Trust's auditor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approving or not the appointment of the Trust's chief executive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receiving the annual report and accounts and Auditor's report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representing the interests of members and the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approving or not increases to non-NHS income of more than 5% of total income	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approving or not significant transactions including acquisitions, mergers, separations and dissolutions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jointly approving changes to the Trust's constitution with the Board	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expressing a view on the Trust's operational (forward) plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consideration on the use of income from the provision of goods and services from sources other than the NHS in England	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring the activities of the Trust to ensure that they are being conducted in a manner consistent with its terms of authorisation and the constitution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring the Trust's performance against its targets and strategic aims	<input type="checkbox"/>

How does this item support the functioning of the Council of Governors?

The Council is required to review its own effectiveness periodically in line with the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance

Author of Report: Sam Stoddart

Designation: Deputy Board Secretary

Date: April 2019

Council of Governors

Date: 25 April 2019

Subject: Development/Review of the Council of Governors (CoG)

From: Jayne Brown OBE, Trust Chair

Authors: Sam Stoddart, Deputy Board Secretary

1. Purpose

<i>For approval</i>	<i>For a collective decision</i>	<i>To report progress</i>	<i>To seek input from</i>	<i>For information/assurance</i>	<i>Other (Please state below)</i>
		x	x		

2. Summary

Paragraph B.6.5 of the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance states: “Led by the chairperson, the council should periodically assess their collective performance and they should regularly communicate to members and the public details on how they have discharged their responsibilities.” The last review of the Council’s effectiveness took place in 2015.

At the meeting of 18 October 2018, Professor Scott Weich suggested that development of the CoG would aid its effectiveness. It was therefore agreed that interested governors would form a steering group to take this forward. The governors who formed this group were Professor Scott Weich, Nick Hall, Adam Butcher, Angela Barney, Sylvia Hartley, Liz Carthy, Billie Critchlow and Janet Sullivan.

The group first met on 7 March 2019 and discussed how best to evaluate the effectiveness of the CoG in carrying out all its duties. There was an acknowledgement that at times relationships were strained between governors and between CoG and the Board, and it was therefore crucial that all governors had a voice and were able to express their views on any perceived or experienced difficulty.

A questionnaire which had been used as a tool in previous evaluations was considered and debated and it was agreed that, with amendments, it would provide a confidential platform for all governors to express their views. In addition, it was believed the same questions asked of governors should also be asked of Board members in order to gain an ‘external’ perspective of the CoG which would be required in order to form a rounded picture of effectiveness. The group also stressed the importance of careful evaluation of the questionnaires as this would highlight any pressure points and areas key for development or support.

Amendments to the questionnaire were made and the group met again (without Scott Weich and Liz Carthy) on 4 April 2019 to discuss them.

However, further concerns regarding internal relationships within the Council were voiced, and after a frank discussion, the group agreed that an external facilitator skilled in this particular area of work would be needed to help the CoG understand its development needs.

The group were united in their wish to have trust as the foundation of the relationships within CoG and between CoG and the Board and that these relationships should embody the Trust's values, particularly those of respect and compassion. They also sought to meet with any proposed facilitator for assurance purposes.

3. Next Steps

The outcome from the meeting of 4 April was fed back to the Chair in line with the request of the group, and the Trust will now identify a possible external facilitator. Once identified, a meeting will be arranged with the group to discuss the scope of the work.

4. Required Actions

CoG is asked to acknowledge the content of this paper and provide any comments.

5. Monitoring Arrangements

The Director of Corporate Governance (Board Secretary) will ensure that arrangements are made for the appointment of an external facilitator.

6. Contact Details

For further information, please contact:

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