

Council of Governors
Item number: 10
Date: 19 June 2025

Private/ public paper:	Public
Report Title:	Council of Governors review of effectiveness 2024-2025
Author(s):	Bethan Devonald, Senior corporate assurance officer
Accountable Director:	Dawn Pearson, Associate director of communications and corporate governance
Presented by:	Dawn Pearson, Associate director of communications and corporate governance
Vision and values:	The Trust vision is to ensure we work together for service users. Governance reporting supports the commitment to quality , ensuring we work together to improve services and deliver outstanding care .
Purpose and key actions:	The report provides an update on the action plan from the Council of Governors annual self-assessment for 2024- 2025.
Executive summary:	<p>The report provides an update to the Council of Governors (CoG) on the annual self-assessment for 2024- 2025. At the confidential CoG meeting in April 2025, the results of the self-assessment for 2024-2025 were received by Governors. It was agreed that an action plan responding the review of effectiveness will be brought to the Council of Governors meeting in June 2025.</p> <p>The Chair, lead Governor and associate director of communications and corporate governance have agreed the proposed action plan for recommendation, and this is attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>Appendices: Appendix 1 – suggested actions from the annual self-assessment</p> <p>Copies of the self-assessment results, which were received by Governors in April 2025, are available on request.</p>

Which strategic objective does the item primarily contribute to:					
Effective Use of Resources	Yes		No	X	
Deliver Outstanding Care	Yes	X	No		
Great Place to Work	Yes		No	X	
Reduce inequalities	Yes	X	No		
What is the contribution to the delivery of standards, legal obligations and/or wider system and partnership working.					
<p>The Health and Social Care Act 2022 enhances and amends the Health and Social Care Act 2012 Act, setting out the legal framework within which a Foundation Trust operates, which includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution (including Standing Orders for practice and procedures of the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors) • The Codes of Conduct. 					

These documents together provide a regulatory framework for the business conduct of the Foundation Trust	
BAF and corporate risk/s:	None specifically to this report.
Any background papers/ items previously considered:	The Council of Governors assesses its performance annually, and the review of effectiveness was received at the confidential Council of Governors meeting in April 2025.
Recommendation:	<p>The Council of Governors is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the recommended action plan in response to Council of Governors' self-assessment for 2024-25.



Review of effectiveness

Council of Governors (COG)

2024 - 2025

Headlines

- Coordination and chairing of meetings, including time keeping received positive feedback. Some feedback on **location and access for meetings and events**
- Clarity regarding scope of members **representation regarding their specific constituencies**, but the positives are there are lots of ways to get involved and representation is diverse.
- **Using more slides to communicate** and other **user-friendly approaches** – NED slides cited as a good example. Need to improve the no use of acronyms. **More time for discussion.**
- Drop-in sessions and support are well received and work well, is there **anything else that could support you?**
- Need a **consistent quality for papers, reports and presentations** – number of items and length of papers can be daunting.
- A good approach to reflection but an improvement would be to think about giving some people **more time to reflect following a meeting**
- The hybrid meetings are positive. An improvement would be a **folder for papers for people who join by teams.**
- SHSC leads presenting need to be **clear on the purpose of a report and the ask.**
- Planned agenda and **governor calendar improvements.**

Supporting information: attendance

Chair and NED	25 th April 2024	20 th June 2024	30 July 2024 (EO- not in public)	26 th Sept 2024(AMM)	16 th Oct 2024	4 th December 2024 (EO)	25 th Feb 2025
Sharon Mays, Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anne Dray		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mark Dundon <i>Resigned July 2024</i>							
Heather Smith	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Owen McLellan	✓			✓			✓
Olayinka Monisola Fadahunsi-Oluwole	✓				✓	✓	
Prof. Brendan Stone							
TOTAL	4	3	2	4	4	3	3

Action plan

Feedback	Action	Timeline
Location and access for meetings and events	A city centre location has been secured for the meeting in October. The corporate assurance team will evaluate the approach. Meetings will remain in hybrid form so that people can continue to join online.	October 2025
Clarity regarding scope of members representation regarding their specific constituencies	The development session on 1 July will have a focus membership representation as part of the Trust involvement approach.	July 2025
Consistent quality for papers, reports and presentations, clear on the purpose of a report and the ask	<p>It was agreed that a focus group would be set up to look at quality of papers. Governors have been asked to volunteer to be a part of this.</p> <p>The corporate assurance team are rolling out report writing training Trust wide and will consider the delivery requirements for CoG as part of our approach.</p>	<p>Working group: July 2025</p> <p>Report writing sessions commence: June 2025</p>

Action plan

Feedback	Action	Timeline
More time for discussion	<p>There will be 5 meetings in a year to ensure there is more time on agendas for discussion.</p> <p>The corporate assurance team will support the Chair to review agendas, to ensure there is time for each item and review if any items can be moved to a development day to allow a longer focused discussion.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Evaluation: October 2025/ April 2026</p>
Folder for papers for people who join by teams	<p>The corporate assurance team will review options for accessing papers through various platforms and report back with an options appraisal for CoG review.</p>	<p>October 2025</p>
Planned agenda and governor calendar improvements	<p>The corporate assurance team will continue to update the governor calendar, and send reminders for events along with calendar invitations.</p>	<p>Evaluation: October 2025/ April 2026</p>