

Council of Governors' Meeting
5 December 2019

Report Title:	Lead Governor's Report
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Introduction

The last several months has seen a variety of Governor based activities that we as a Council have contributed to support the Trust. Over the Summer, we contributed to the CQC visits and the Pre-consultation events for a proposed new elective care centre.

We had representatives also attend the Long Service and the Staff award ceremonies to celebrate those that achieve remarkable things in their work alongside patients and fellow staff members. In addition to these duties, we have also been carrying out our regular roles in assurance groups, sub-committees and attending walkabouts with the Non-Executive Directors across our sites within the Trust's catchment area.

Appointment of the Trust Chair

As part of our Constitutional role as the Council of Governors we have a responsibility in the recommendation of appointing the Chair of the Trust. Earlier this year David White stood down. At the time, the Deputy Chair, Helen Taylor became the interim Chair.

Through the Appointments and Performance committee, the Council of Governors shortlisted a list of candidates who were then invited to attend stakeholder events (including members of our Council of Governors), followed by an interview the next day. It was agreed by the interview panel that Ms Taylor proved to be the strongest candidate.

The recommendation was put to the Council of Governors, which received unanimous support. On 7 November, I took the recommendation to our Trust Board; they supported the recommendation to appoint Helen Taylor as Trust Chair from January 2020.

I wish to congratulate Helen on her appointment and on behalf of the Council of Governors; we look forward to working with you in your new permanent role.

Lead Governor elections

This will be my last Lead Governor report as I have chosen to stand down after agreeing to an extension requested by the Corporate Governance team and supported by the Governors. My term will finish at the end of January following a six-month extension.

We have had an extensive nomination period where I have made myself available to my fellow Governors to field queries and provide support for those considering taking the role. As it stands, it looks like we have multiple candidates amongst the Council of Governors so internally over the next couple of weeks we will have an election process to appoint a new Lead Governor.

Governor engagement in 2020

Since my last report, we have agreed and ratified a new Terms of Reference for the Strategy and Engagement group. The group recently reviewed engaging with PPG's and Parish

councils and formulated a plan to engage more across 2020.

In addition to this, the Staff Governors have also been working on new terms of reference for a Staff Comms and Involvement forum. Which they will seek to engage with staff groups across the trust. They also now have their own dedicated intranet page to raise their profile.

The walkabout schedule is currently being put together for the 2020 programme with the Non-Executive Directors as well.

Retirement of Donna Booton

On a final note, we bid farewell to Donna Booton, one of our Colchester Staff Governors. Donna is retiring this month and is stepping down from her role as a Staff Governor. On behalf of the Council, I wish to thank her for her years of service, not just with ESNEFT but also with CHUFT before the merger.

Donna has been a constant over the last few years in supporting her staff colleagues and providing a firm, sensible voice to decisions that could affect their roles in the Trust. On behalf of the Council of Governors, I wish to say that she will be missed and that we thank her for her dedication and hard work.