

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS' MEETING

27 MARCH 2018

Paper Title:	Developing the Work of the Council of Governors
Section:	Public
Lead Director:	Michael Smith, Chair
Paper Author:	Colin Perry, Lead Governor and Sarah Jones, Public Governor
Agenda Item:	3
Presented For:	Discussion

### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER:

This paper contains proposals regarding ways in which the Council of Governors could develop its role. Governors are invited to consider and discuss the proposals contained below.

### 2. WHAT DO WE DO?

Key aspects of the Council of Governors role are:

- **Engaging** with Trust members and members of the public from across the District and representing their interests and views.
- Appointing Non-Executive Directors and the Chair of the Trust, approving the level of their remuneration and **holding them to account** for the performance of the organisation.
- **Promoting** the interests of the Trust and staff by acting as an ambassador.
- **Strategic involvement** by acting as a critical friend to ensure plans make sense, given external and internal analysis of current realities.

### 3. HOW DO WE DO IT NOW?

**Engage:**

- Gather comments and views on Trust services from existing contacts and feed them into meetings and discussions.
- Attend meetings and events set up by the Trust to inform and/or consult with members and/or members of the public.
- Participate in the Council of Governors meetings and Governor Committee meetings by raising points made by Trust members and members of the public.
- Develop the Membership Engagement Strategy

- Publicise the work of Governors and make Governor contact details publicly available.

### **Holding to Account:**

- Participate in meetings of the Nominations Committee and Remunerations Committee.
- Attend Trust Board meetings and Trust committee meetings in order to observe the performance of the Chair and Non-Executive Directors and look for assurance that issues raised by Governors are receiving adequate attention.
- Participate in the Council of Governors meetings and Governor Committee meetings to raise key issues about the performance of the Trust on which Governors require assurance.
- Participate in the Annual Members Meeting.

### **Promote:**

- Governors attend Trust events
- Staff Governors have a key role
- Engagement with the CQC

### **Strategic involvement**

- Governors are presented with plans.
- Governors are involved in Task & Finish Groups. Example:- developing the Quality Goals for the Quality Report.

## **4. HOW COULD WE DEVELOP WHAT WE DO? SOME IDEAS.**

### **Engage:**

- Step 1: Diarise 4/5 events per year well in advance where Governors can meet members.
- Step 2: Promote the work of the Council of Governors on social media to members and the public.
- Step 3: Look for increased engagement of all Governors including feedback about the work they are doing in the Trust.

### **Hold to Account:**

- Step 1: Small group of Governors to review data that is currently provided.
- Step 2: Small group to agree a simple way to review data and generate questions on issues where assurance is required (possibly through a quarterly group).
- Step 3: All Governors to practice asking questions. Lead Governor to oversee feedback loop.

**Promote:**

- Step 1: Complaints Panel to involve Governor(s) who will review and develop understanding of complaints, concerns and compliments to enable them to feedback an informed overview to COG
- Step 2: Governors to ensure issues arising from complaints are investigated and raised with Trust Board.

**Strategic involvement:**

- Step 1 Governors attending the Open House Meeting will ask questions of the Chair and Board representative.

**5. DEVELOPING THE OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS**

The involvement of Governors is varied and individual Governors have different interests and contacts. It is healthy for the group to be wide-ranging but it is important for Governors to be clear about the key issues, to know what each other is doing and to keep track of issues raised. This would prevent Governors from being isolated and enable gaps in assurance to be identified.

There is a need for a coherent method of bringing together different aspects of the work that Governors are doing and deciding what else needs to be done. Governors need to:

- Agree the main areas of work they wish to undertake.
- Agree a stepped plan for each identified area with directions as to how Governors can achieve or contribute to each step.
- Require the Lead Governor to remind Governors of how they can contribute and review contributions with them at a Governor only meeting.

It is suggested that the Open House meetings could be developed to achieve the coordination and planning required.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Council of Governors':

- Considers ideas contained within this paper at paragraphs 4 and 5; and
- Agrees the next steps.