

Escalation and Assurance Report

Agenda
item

14

Report from the: Ethics Committee

Date the meeting took place: 12 February 2021

Report to the: Board of Directors

Key discussion points and matters to be escalated from the discussion at the meeting:

Alert:

Nothing to report.

Advise:

The Medical Director presented an ethical dilemma that had been escalated from the Medical Ethical Advisory Group on staff members deciding whether to receive the COVID-19 vaccination, which would be an individual's decision based on an informed choice. Following the discussion, the Ethics Committee:

- welcomed ongoing review of national guidance taking place to support future decision making;
- supported the seven recommendations presented within the report;
- welcomed ongoing discussion with partner trusts and professional networks to understand best practice in support of learning;
- noted the role of the Medical Ethical Advisory Group and thanked colleagues for their ongoing deliberation of key topics; and
- welcomed a proportionate approach being agreed that was in-line with the compassionate culture at the Trust.

Assure:

Review of supporting governance arrangements for the Committee took place, which resulted in recommendations presented to the Board of Directors on 25 February for consideration and agreement. The session at the Board, was facilitated by a Care Trust Way Master Coach and the exercise used the thinking effectively framework. The Board Development exercise highlighted the successes and learning that had been received from the initiation of the Ethics Committee, which had originally been formed in March 2020 as part of the Trust's response to the pandemic.

As a result of the exercise and to better align current governance reporting structures, it was agreed by the Board that the time-bound Ethics Committee was dis-established and replace it with an Ethical Assurance Group with assurance received via the existing Quality and Safety Committee and Senior Leadership Team reporting arrangements. Terms of Reference enclosed for information.

At the Board meeting on 25 February, the governance process for ethical issues considered during the pandemic by the Ethics Committee had been noted as best

practice across the Place. With the Board welcoming the learning opportunity on the governance review to support the refresh of the Ethics Committee workstream as an effectiveness review.

Risks discussed:

- Nil.

New risks identified:

- Nil

Report completed by: Dr David Sims

Date: 19 March 2021