

## Council of Governors

29 June 2023

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Lead Governor's report</b>
<b>Executive/NED Lead:</b>	N/A
<b>Report author(s):</b>	Helen Rose
<b>Previously considered by:</b>	N/A

Approval     
  Discussion     
  Information     
  Assurance

<b>Executive summary</b>		
An update is provided on the activities of the Lead Governor in supporting the Council in meeting its general duties.		
<b>Action Required of the Council</b>		
The Council is invited to <b>note</b> the report.		
<b>Link to Strategic Objectives (SO)</b>		<b>Please tick</b>
SO1	Keep people in control of their health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO2	Lead the integration of care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO3	Develop our centres of excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO4	Support and develop our staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO5	Drive technology enabled care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Risk Implications for the Trust</b> <i>(including any clinical and financial consequences)</i>		The Trust needs to have access to an appropriate mix of skills and experience in the membership of the Board of Directors to ensure effective decision making.
<b>Trust Risk Appetite</b>		The Board has a cautious risk appetite when it comes to compliance and regulatory issues. Where the laws, regulations and standards are about the delivery of safe, high quality care, it will make every effort to meet regulator expectations and comply with them and will only challenge them if there is strong evidence or argument to do so.
<b>Legal and regulatory implications</b> <i>(including links to CQC outcomes, Monitor, inspections, audits, etc.)</i>		
<b>Financial Implications</b>		N/A
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>		A diverse Board is stronger and makes better decisions, drawing on a wider range of experiences. Reverse mentoring is in place but currently women and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are under represented at Board level.

## **Lead Governor's Report**

As has been recorded, our last Council of Governors meeting on 8 March was at Colchester Stadium. We all appreciated the opportunity to be face to face and have since agreed how relaxed and more interactive it was to be in the same room together with colleagues.

Many of the Governors have been signing up for tours of the Trust's wards, departments and community settings alongside the Patient Experience Team and with representatives of the NED team. These have not been inspections but, rather, opportunities to understand some of the services and facilities across the Trust and, importantly, to meet some of the staff. Later on in our agenda Governors will be giving examples of some of these tours. However I would like to give a particular mention of our visit to Ipswich Hospital's Mortuary. There was much valuable learning for us here – the respect and care shown to the deceased who are still referred to as patients, because they are still under the care of the Trust, the attendance to relatives' particular needs, both physical and psychological and the ambience of the department itself. We were very impressed.

We have continued to have a presence at Trust Board meetings and are able to ask pertinent questions at the end of the agenda. Both this and our observer status at Trust Assurance Committees helps to inform our input to the Chair's and the NEDs' appraisals, both of which we have responded to since our last CoG meeting in public.

In my role as Lead Governor I met both the group of Colchester Governors and Ipswich Governors to discuss possible ways that they may engage with their constituents and we look forward to our upcoming Membership and Engagement meeting with the Trust when we can discuss our ideas.

An opportunity for me to meet informally with both our Chief Executive and with our Chair is appreciated when I can highlight what Governors are interested in and suggest ways we may become even more involved and add value to the organisation. And 12 Governors met with Helen at one of our informal sessions when we were kept up to date with issues arising from the strikes, heard from NED Mark Miller about audit matters and received a presentation about Information Governance and Data Protection.

I attended the opening by Amanda Pritchard (Chief Executive of NHS England) of the new Breast Care Centre at Ipswich Hospital on 24 March which brings together aspects of diagnostic facilities, outpatients and consultations in a carefully thought through environment. Privacy and dignity, the comfort of varieties of seating in the waiting areas and art work and a garden – all have been decided upon with regular engagement with patients.

And finally, we continue to be invited to take up training opportunities through NHS Providers and two of us attended Governor Focus 2023 at Kia Oval in London this May. There were facilitated conversations with expert panels throughout the day with associated roundtable discussions, including the role of Governors within the diversity, inclusion and health inequalities agenda and a particularly interesting session about the role of the Governor in a sustained crisis. Governors may wish to follow up on these topics in one of our informal meetings.