

Minutes of the Joint Board of Directors and Council of Governors Meeting

Thursday 18th July 2013

Present:	Tim Melville-Ross	Chairman
	Sir John Gieve	Non-Executive Director (Chair)
	Vanni Treves	Non-Executive Director
	Tracey Fletcher	Chief Executive
	Dylan Jones	Chief Operating Officer
	Dr John Coakley	Medical Director
	Geoffrey Rivett	Public Governor
	Stuart Maxwell	Public Governor
	Patricia Bennett	Public Governor
	Sarah Weiss	Public Governor
	Jo Lobenstein	Public Governor
	Jude Williams	Public Governor
	Eric Sorensen	Public Governor
	Eli Kernkraut	Public Governor
	Suri Freedman	Public Governor
	Andrew Ezsias	Staff Governor
	Ros Constable	Staff Governor
	Val Dimmock	Staff Governor

In Attendance:

David Bridger	Head of Governance (minutes)
Gabrielle Laing	Associate Medical Director CSDO (item 4)
Sallie Rumbold	Divisional Ops Director CSDO (item 4)
Marcia Smikle	Head of Nursing (item 4)
James Barker	Deloitte LLP (item 5)

1. Chairman's welcome

Tim Melville-Ross welcomed the Governors to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Imelda Redmond	Non-Executive Director
David Stewart	Non-Executive Director
Chris Griffiths	Non-Executive Director
Jo Farrar	Finance Director
Sheila Adam	Chief Nurse & Director of Governance
John Bootes	Public Governor
Clyde Baker	Public Governor
Julia Bennett	Public Governor
Talaat Qureshi	Public Governor
Prof. Stanton Newman	Partner Governor

Two members of the public were in attendance.

2 Minutes of the Council of Governors meeting 23rd May 2012

The minutes from the previous Council of Governors meeting were agreed with following additions:

Item 3 – The Governors asked that as much information as possible about the Boards discussions should be made available to them and that Board members should try, whenever possible, to attend joint meetings.

Item 5 – Mr Ezsias enquired what was the legal expenses (spending on defending cases, on legal advice etc.) of the Trust for the last financial year as no such item was listed in the draft annual statement. He was advised that the Trust did not publish such information separately.

Item 5 (6th bullet point) – A number of questions were raised about pay awards. It was explained that for reasons of personal and corporate confidentiality, it was not possible to disclose pay information additional to that shown in the report. All pay arrangements for senior staff were carefully considered and decided by remuneration committee of the Board. In this as in all matters the Board is ultimately accountable to the governing body.

3. Health Visiting and Immunisations

Those present were provide with a presentation from Gabrielle Laing, Associate Medical Director CSDO and Marcia Smikle, Head of Nursing (community) on childhood immunisations and Health Visiting in City and Hackney. Presenting on immunisations Gabrielle Liang included details of the immunisation schedule, involvement of key stakeholders, status of immunisation uptake in City and Hackney, key challenges and forward plans. Presenting on Health Visiting, Marcia Smikle, provided a summary of the DH HV Implementation Plan 2011-15 and the development of the health visitor workforce, details of the healthy child programme, the Hackney health and early years partnership and heal visiting indicators.

The Governors thanked them for their presentation and asked a number of questions including:

What is the one big thing the Trust could do to help improve community services – improvements in IT support and sharing information between disciplines and systems would help support community services.

What support is provided for vulnerable families – the service provides a range of support for vulnerable families particularly through the work of safeguarding children.

Are there special arrangements for the orthodox Jewish community in respect of improving immunisation uptake - the Trust has been involving the community much more and has targeted all areas of the community where uptake has been poor.

4. Independent Auditors Assurance Report on the Quality account.

James Barker from Deloitte LLP presented the independent auditors external assurance report on the Trusts Quality Account for 2012/13. He provided an explanation of the limited scope review required stating that this aimed to check consistency and content of the report in relation to Monitor guidance. It also reviewed a number of the performance indicators in the report including C. Diff data, Cancer 62 day waits and incidents resulting in harm.

Based upon the results he reported that nothing had come to their attention to indicate that the report was not produced in line with the reporting requirements. He reported that information contained within the Quality Account was reliable with only minor data issues associated with the 62 day cancer target. He provided an overview of the three recommendations identified.

He thanked the relevant members of Trust staff for their assistance with the production of the report.

5. Chief Executive Report

Tracey Fletcher notified the Board and Governors that the Trust Annual Report and Accounts including the Quality Account are now publically available following being layed before parliament in early July.

Ms Fletcher went on to present the recently published consultation document setting out proposed changes to the way Care Quality Commission regulates, inspects and monitors care. She provided a summary of the main changes including the new five key questions, proposed changes to standards, the introduction of ratings and the introduction of larger expert teams to carry out the reviews. She notified the Board and Governors that the recently appointed Chief Inspector of Hospitals had identified a total of 18 hospitals to have in-depth CQC reviews, Homerton was not one of the 18.

The main focus for the Trust continues to be on Quality which is key element of the role newly appointed Chief Nurse, Sheila Adam. The Trust continues to build upon the culture of the organisation as well as ensuring that staff are empowered to raise and report concerns.

The CQC consultation was discussed including the inclusion of Governor interviews as part of the review process and the staff resources required for the enhanced inspection regime which will require NHS staff to volunteer to participate in the inspections.

The Trust is in the process of putting together a consultation response and would like to understand further the practicality of staff from the Trust participating in inspections at other Trusts and how this will impact on our staffing levels if staff wish to participate.

The Governors present raised a number of questions for the Board including:

Information provided to the Governors is very interesting but how does information reach the public as there is little about the Trust reported in local press – The Trust is reviewing how information is put out to the public and how we present the Trust using a wide range of media. The Trust has in post a Director of Organisation Transformation and part of their role is to develop and implement a communications strategy.

Could some of the good stories included in Homertonlife magazine be shared with the local press – yes they certainly could.

The Liverpool Care Pathway has been in the national media recently does the Trust have any comments – The use of the pathway is to be removed and new guidance is being produced.

6. Lead Governor

The Governors present voted for the post of a new lead Governor. Two nominations had been received. The Governors present voted by secret ballot and Jude Williams Public Governor for Hackney was voted to be the new Lead Governor.

7. AOB

A question was raised regarding Governor attendance at Board of Director meetings. All Governors are welcome to attend the public part of the meetings. Stuart Maxwell who has regularly attended the Board of Directors meetings stated he was happy to provide Governors with feedback if required.

As this was his last meeting thanks were given to Geoffrey Rivett for all his support and work for the Trust during his nine years as a public Governor.

8. Question from the public

One question was raised regarding discharge of elderly patients and the potential issues associated with the interface between health and social care – the Trust and local authority have commissioned a joint review of discharge arrangements and is awaiting the results of this review.