

Minutes of the Council of Governors Meeting

Thursday 28th March 2013

Present:	Michael Cassidy	Chairman
	Geoffrey Rivett	Public Governor
	Stuart Maxwell	Public Governor
	Talaat Qureshi	Public Governor
	Clyde Baker	Public Governor
	Sarah Weiss	Public Governor
	Suri Freedman	Public Governor
	Eli Kernkraut	Public Governor
	Eric Sorensen	Public Governor
	Jude Williams	Public Governor
	Andrew Ezsias	Staff Governor
	Val Dimmock	Staff Governor
	Tracey Fletcher	Chief Executive
	Dr John Coakley	Medical Director

In Attendance:

David Bridger	Head of Governance (minutes)
Sir John Gieve	Non-Executive Director

1. Chairman's welcome

Michael Cassidy welcomed the Governors to the meeting which was to be his last as Chairman of the Trust. He thanked the Governors for their support and involvement with the Trust during his time at Homerton.

Geoffrey Rivett on behalf of all the Governors thanked the Chairman for his all hard work and commitment to the Trust and wished him well for the future.

2. Apologies:

Jo Lobenstein	Public Governor
Prof. Stanton Newman	Partner Governor
John Bootes	Public Governor
Patricia Bennett	Public Governor
Julia Bennett	Public Governor
Henry Muss	Staff Governor
Katherine Coyne	Staff Governor
Ros Constable	Staff Governor
Dr Lesley Mountford	Partner Governor

Two members of the public were in attendance.

Apologies were also received from the new Trust Chairman, Tim Melville-Ross who was unable to attend owing prior commitments. It was agreed that the Governors would hold any extra Council of Governors meeting at the end of April which would

give Governors an opportunity to meet with the new Chair. At this meeting would be asked to review and approve the revised Trust Constitution.

3. Minutes of the Council of Governors meeting 14th February 2013

The minutes from the previous Council of Governors meeting were agreed.

It was enquired regarding the publication date for the staff survey which was discussed at the February meeting. At present the data from the Homerton survey is being transferred into the national report being compiled by the Department of Health. The publication date for the report is not yet known.

4. Quality Account Priorities

Dr John Coakley presented a paper setting out the feedback received from key external stakeholders on proposed quality account priorities for 2013-14. The priorities will be linked to the Trust's corporate objectives and the NHS QUEST programme. He provided a summary of the priorities and the rationale for their inclusion.

Governors discussed the priorities and the stakeholder feedback. It was questioned whether the findings of the recent Francis Report are to be included as part of the priorities specifically the duty of candour and compassionate care. It was indicated that whilst there would not be specific priorities related to these that they would be picked up through the other priorities.

The Governors noted the report and asked if the report author could be thanked on behalf of the Governors.

5. Divisional Business Plans and Corporate Priorities

Tracey Fletcher provided the Governors with a presentation setting out the Trust business planning process and the links to the corporate objectives for 2013-14.

She provided a summary of the timetable for production of the Trust Annual Plan and the process for its production. This also explained how the plans are developed and linked to the Trust corporate objectives and divisional clinical and operational ambitions. The overall Trust Annual Plan is being drafted taking into account divisional plans and will be presented to the Governors in May prior to final submission.

Ms Fletcher went on to provide Governors with more detail for the individual corporate objectives setting out specific actions required under each.

The Governors discussed the annual planning process and requested to see further detail to be presented at the Governors at a future meeting. It was agreed that this would be looked into to see what information could be presented at that time.

Governors raised a number of queries in relation to the objectives including:

Further details regarding the utilisation of RIO and EPR and how this relates to the wider plans to allow patient access to EMIS – the relationship between the various patient record databases in place across the area are being reviewed including the legal status of patient access to medical records.

Governors acknowledge the importance of organisational development as an objective, does this apply to Governors as well – the Trust acknowledges the role of Governors and that they also require access to development opportunities as well.

What is the Trust doing to enhance communication and engagement with other stakeholders such as GP's – the Trust is in the process of appointing a post accountable to the Chief Operating Officer whose role will be to focus on GP engagement.

6. CQC Report of the Inspection of Mary Seacole Nursing Home

Tracey Fletcher presented the final report of the CQC inspection of Mary Seacole Nursing Home (MSNH). Ms Fletcher provided the Governors with summary detail of the visit which was the second inspection of MSNH by CQC. She explained about the standards that had been reviewed including their review of recommendations identified on the previous assessment. The Trust had demonstrated compliance with all the standards assessed and overall feedback had been positive particularly in relation to staff at MSNH. The CQC were assured that all previous recommendations had been implemented.

The Trust is waiting to receive the final report of the CQC inspection of the Hospital site.

The Governors noted the report and expressed their praise and thanks to all the staff involved.

7. AOB

David Bridger provided the Governors with a verbal report on the recent Governor elections. The results were as follows:

John Bootes had been elected unopposed to the public City of London seat

No nominations had been received for the two other vacancies namely public outer constituency and staff non-clinical.

Both these two seats will be included in the elections scheduled to take place over the early summer and more proactive work will be undertaken to encourage members to stand.

Stuart Maxwell raised two points:

He wished it noted that Governors remain disappointed regarding the low attendance of NED's at the Joint meetings.

He wished to congratulate Matthew Hodson, Consultant Nurse for Respiratory Services who had been declared the 'Nurse of the Year' in the prestigious Nursing Standard annual awards 2013.

Geoffrey Rivett informed the Governors that from April 2013 the Trust Board of Directors meetings will be held in public and Governors are free to attend should they wish.

He also stated that as his term completes in September that the governors need to consider who will take on the role of Lead Governor. A role description will be drafted between himself and David Bridger to help inform potential Governors wishing to be considered for the role.

Sarah Weiss enquired regarding the Trust PEAT inspections which Governors have previously been involved with that have not happened for some time – it was agreed the Trust would find out what the status of these inspections is and provide Governors with feedback.

8. Question from the public

Questions from the members of public present were taken.

Regarding the Trust objectives has the Trust met its previous objectives? The Trust holds regular meetings with the divisions to discuss progress with objectives. Progress is monitored but it is acknowledged that the Trust needs to do more to better demonstrate this.

What is the Trust doing regards to linking with Hackney Social Services – The Trust is working with the Hackney on a number of programmes for instance discharge planning.