

Minutes of the Council of Governors Meeting

Thursday 22nd March 2012

Present:	Michael Cassidy	(Chairman) Chair
	Sarah Weiss	(public governor)
	Suri Freedman	(public governor)
	Florence Osaigbovo	(public governor)
	Geoffrey Rivett	(public governor)
	John Bootes	(public governor)
	Eric Sorensen	(public governor)
	Jude Williams	(public governor)
	Clyde Baker	(public governor)
	Christopher Sills	(public governor)
	Eli Kernkraut	(public governor)
	Talaat Qureshi	(public governor)
	Jamie Bishop	(public governor)
	Robert Duke	(staff governor)
	Andrew Ezsias	(staff governor)
	Dr Lesley Mountford	(partner governor)
	Nancy Hallett	Chief Executive Officer
	Charlie Sheldon	Chief Nurse & Director of Governance
	Dr John Coakley	Medical Director
	Melanie Mavers	Head of Clinical Quality
	David Bridger	Head of Governance (minutes)

In attendance: Three members of public

1. Chairman's welcome

Michael Cassidy chairman welcomed the Governors to the meeting.

2. Apologies:	Patricia Bennett	(public governor)
	Prof. Stanton Newman	(partner governor)
	Deborah James	(partner governor)
	Katherine Coyne	(staff governor)
	Henry Muss	(staff governor)
	Ros Constable	(staff governor)
	Val Dimmock	(staff governor)
	Gareth Moore	(partner governor)

3. Minutes of the Joint Council of Governors meeting 16th February 2012

The notes from the previous Joint Council of Governors meeting were agreed.

4. Retirement of Chief Executive

Geoffrey Rivett notified the Governors that Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive had announced her intention to retire at the end of 2012. He provided the Governors with

an overview of the process and timescales to appoint a new Chief Executive which will be led by the Nomination Committee of the Non-Executive Directors. The appointment of the new Chief Executive, once made, will be presented to the Council of Governors to be endorsed. The Governors noted the report and wished Nancy Hallett well in her retirement.

5. Update on Social Care Bill

Nancy Hallett provided the Governors with an update on the key aspects on the new Health and Social Care Bill. She informed that Governors that the Trust is very committed to working with the new commissioning arrangements and has very good working relationships with local GP's. The Governors discussed the proposed changes associated with the private patient cap and their role in approving changes. It was agreed that a paper on this will be presented to the Governors at a future meeting so they are able to fully understand their role. Governors also questioned whether their role would change under the Bill. Whilst it is not felt that the role will change substantially there is more responsibility on the Trust to ensure that Governors receive appropriate training. The Governors noted the report.

6. Internal Update Report

Charlie Sheldon provided the Governors with reports on the following:

CQC Inspection report

He presented the CQC review of compliance for the Homerton. He reported that the CQC assessors spoke to 40 patients and relatives, 30 members of staff and reviewed 15 patient records. Patients described the Homerton as a 'good hospital'. The CQC reviewed compliance against 11 out of the 16 Essential Standards and found the Trust to be compliant with all 11 – with a minor concern under standard one – respecting and involving people who use services. The Trust has sent an action plan to address the minor concerns to the CQC and will contact them again once all the actions are complete. The Governors discussed the findings of the report and wished to convey their appreciation to all hospital staff.

Outpatient Survey

He presented the results of the 2011 Outpatient Survey. He reported that there remains a discrepancy between what is collected locally and what is reported in the national survey with the local survey generally being more positive. The CQC are being contacted to see how this can be reconciled. He stated that there had been a lot of work over last year to improve patient experience in the outpatient department and with regard to the environment the survey had been carried out before the toilets were refurbished. The Governors discussed the findings of the report and queried about the improved use of technological solutions to better inform patients. These are being looked into including the use of electronic smart boards. The Governors wished to convey their appreciation to the staff in outpatients. A number of other issues were discussed by the Governors including improvements to the main entrance to the hospital, problems of people smoking on site, improved signage and lack of gel dispensers near the rear entrance.

Homerton Nursery

Nancy Hallett provided the Governors with an update regarding the proposed Nursery closure. She explained that the Nursery is safe and provides high standards of nursery care however despite this it has been running at a financial loss with NHS

clinical income being used to underwrite the shortfall. An options paper had been considered by the Trust Clinical Board and Board of Directors and after careful deliberation had recommended that the Trust proceed with closure of the Nursery. The Trust had approached a private firm regarding taking over the running of the Nursery and they had concluded that it was not a viable concern. Whilst plans remain for closure the Trust is continuing to look at possible options and other models of working that may allow it to stay open. The trust has guaranteed that the closure will not take place until after the Paralympic games. The Trust had met with parent representatives.

The Governors and public members present raised questions regarding the nursery including consultation methods and equality impact assessment used and the review of alternative options.

Equality Objectives

Charlie Sheldon tabled a paper providing the Governors with an update on equality objectives. He outlined the Trust's four Equality objectives for 2012/13 and summarised the requirements to publish these on the Trust website before the end of March.

7. Corporate and Quality Account Objectives

Nancy Hallett presented a paper setting out the Trust's draft corporate objectives for 2012/13 previously presented to the Governors and incorporating comments received. The Governors discussed the objectives and suggested consideration of Homerton playing a part in improving the public health of the local population. It was felt that public health messages would be considered as part of the objective associated with staff skills.

Melanie Mavers tabled a paper outlining the Trusts Quality Account priorities for 2012/13. She summarised these under the three headings of safe, effective and thoughtful care. The Trust is aligning two priorities to each heading. She went on to provide the Governors with a summary of the Quality Account consultation process and the Governors involvement in this. The Governors noted the report.

8. AOB

Geoffrey Rivett provided the Governors with feedback from the recent meeting of the Remuneration Committee for Non-Executive Directors (NED). The committee had acknowledged the hard work and commitment of the Chairman and NED's but did not recommend any increase in pay at this time. The Governors considered the feedback from the committee and approved the committee's recommendation.

9. Question from the public

None