

Minutes of the Council of Governors meeting
Thursday 17th February 2011

Present: Michael Cassidy (Chair)
Geoffrey Rivett (public governor)
John Bootes (public governor)
Christopher Sills (public governor)
Clyde Baker (public governor)
Doug Hiza (public governor)
Robert Duke (staff governor)
Professor Stanton Newman (partner governor)
Deborah James (partner governor)
Dr Lesley Mountford (partner governor)

In attendance: Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive
Charlie Sheldon, Chief Nurse & Director of Governance (& Minutes)
Dr John Coakley, Medical Director
Eric Sorenson, Non Executive Director

Prior to the meeting the Chairman accepted a petition from members of the public in relation to proposed staff cuts at the Homerton University Hospital.

1. Chairman's welcome

Michael Cassidy Chair of the Council of Governors and Chairman of the hospital welcomed the Governors to the meeting. Professor Stanton Newman (Dean of the School of Health) was welcomed as the new partner Governor representing City University.

2. Apologies: Sue Goodship (public governor)
Sarah Horsfield (public governor)
John Bootes (public governor)
Patricia Bennett (public governor)
Sarah Weiss (public governor)
Doug Hiza (Public Governor)
Dr Paul Cannon (Staff Governor)

3. Declarations of Interests

None

4. Minutes of the Joint Board of Directors and Council of Governors meeting January 2011

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

- Grammatical error noted page 3 bullet point 4 - “a” removed
- Item 9 – noted that the meeting agreed that in future spouse interests would need to be declared.

5. Patient Experience & Quality Report

Mr Sheldon presented the patient experience and quality report to the Governors. Additional work is ongoing with the accuracy of the PET score. CS will be working on this with the team.

The Governors were informed of the themes of current serious untoward incidents.

These are:

Self harm: 4
Pressure Sores: 1
Maternity incidents which include national requirements for reporting: 6
Result related issues: 2
A&E related issues: 4
Emergency Complications: 1
Serious Assault: 1

Mr Sheldon noted the recent Health Service Ombudsman report into care of older people and reported that the issues raised would be raised and considered at the Patient Experience Committee.

6. Proposal for Governor Development

Mr Sheldon presented the Governors with an outline proposal for Governor induction and development.

This was agreed by Governors.

Governors discussed that they need to put in place an opportunity for Governors to meet up informally.

Governors requested presentations and updates from Divisions at the Council of Governors.

Action: Mr Bridger to give Governors an update the next meeting in relation to timescale for implementing this proposal

7. Renewal of Terms

Dr Rivett presented the paper to the Governors outlining the Governors responsibility in assessing the performance of the Non Executive Directors in order to have confidence in performance.

Mr Bridger to set up both nominations and remuneration committees for March 2011.

Two Non Executive Directors have terms due to end in April 2011 and are therefore require the agreement of the nomination committee to enter a second term.

A question from the Governors was raised on who appraises the Chair and Dr Rivett confirmed that in his capacity of Lead Governor he undertook this.

The Governors asked if the remuneration committee could meet every 3 years rather than annually. Dr Rivett confirmed that the committee is required to meet annually.

8. Financial Planning

Ms Hallett provided the Governors with a verbal report on financial planning for the Trust in 2011-12. This had been detailed in a paper to the last Council of Governors meeting.

- The amount of money available to the NHS has reduced.
- For HUH FT this requires an 8.2% reduction in costs
- The Trust is legally required to balance the books
- The Trust will maintain services and try to protect jobs.

Every single service will be required to make cost reductions and whilst we have £180m to run the hospital this year we will have £165m in 2011/12. Ms Hallett noted the high level of redundancies proposed by other organisations and the proposals at the Homerton were considerably smaller.

In the region of 100 – 200 posts may go from the HUH and due to the hospital running on approximately 250 vacancies in most cases we would be able to offer staff redeployment.

Responses were given to questions from members of the public on proposals for savings at the HUH.

9. Community Health Services (CHS) update and strategic changes in NE London

Ms Hallett provided the Governors with an update on the work to ensure the safe transfer of community health services to the Homerton. This is scheduled to take place on 1st April 2011.

The Chair updated the Council of Governors on the Monitor board to board.

The Boards of Barts and the London NHS Trust, Newham and Whipps Cross Hospitals have voted that a 3 way merger to become a new foundation trust is their supported option. A final decision is expected from NHS London in this month.

9. Governor declarations of Interest

Mr Sheldon informed the Governors that a new declaration of interest is required due to the transfer of community health services.

10. Governor Committee Membership

The current list was circulated for this. Governors were also asked if they could assist with membership recruitment events in the hospital.

Action: Mr Bridger to circulate the dates.

11. Any other business

The Governors asked about the recent ombudsman report and a discussion followed.

Questions and responses to the proposed reduction in advocacy and midwifery services were heard from members of the public.

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be a meeting of the Council of Governors on Thursday 24th March 2011.