

Minutes of the Council of Governors

Thursday 27th October 2011

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| Present: | Michael Cassidy | (Chairman) Chair |
| | Geoffrey Rivett | (public governor) |
| | Eli Kernkraut | (public governor) |
| | Sarah Weiss | (public governor) |
| | Suri Freedman | (public governor) |
| | Fatmata Sesay | (public governor) |
| | Talaat Qureshi | (public governor) |
| | Clyde Baker | (public governor) |
| | Jude Williams | (public governor) |
| | John Bootes | (public governor) |
| | Jamie Bishop | (public governor) |
| | Patricia Bennett | (public governor) |
| | Katherine Coyne | (staff governor) |
| | Andrew Ezsias | (staff governor) |
| | Robert Duke | (staff governor) |
| | Val Dimmock | (staff governor) |
| | Ros Constable | (staff governor) |
| | Dr Lesley Mountford | (partner governor) |
| | Prof. Stanton Newman | (partner governor) |
| | Deborah James | (partner governor) |

In attendance: Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive
Charlie Sheldon, Chief Nurse and Director of Governance
Dr John Coakley, Medical Director
Dzinja Kabambe, Informatics Strategy Lead (item 5)
David Bridger, Head of Governance (minutes)

Two members of the public were in attendance

1. Chairman's welcome

Michael Cassidy chair of the Council of Governors welcomed the Governors and members of the public to the meeting. He welcomed the newly elected Governors to their first Council of Governors meeting.

2. Apologies: Florence Osaigbovo (public governor)
Henry Muss (staff governor)

3. Minutes of the Council of Governors meeting 28th July 2011

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

4. Minutes of the Annual Members Meeting and Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council of Governors 15th September 2011

The minutes from the previous Annual Members meeting were agreed. The minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of the Council of Governors to approve the appointment of two new Non-Executive Directors were agreed. It was noted that Clyde Baker was in attendance for this meeting.

5. Information Technology (IT) at Homerton

Dzinja Kabambe, Informatics Strategy Lead provided the Governors with a high level summary of the current IT provision at Homerton including how issues associated with the recent integration of community health services were addressed from an IT perspective. He provided information on the following: IT provision at the Hospital site; Hospital Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system; IT provision at CHS sites and the Community EPR system. He summarised the main components of the system, how they interrelate and plans for the future.

He also provided information on the dismantling of the national programme for IT and how this affects Homerton.

Governors discussed the presentation and asked a number of questions including how EPR and RIO systems can be used to work together, wireless network connection limitations and the future provision of IT at Homerton.

The Governors thanked him for his report.

6. Patient Experience and Quality Report

Charlie Sheldon presented the Patient Experience and Quality Report for August; he provided a summary of the contents of the report including complaints, patient experience and incident reporting. Regarding patient experience he informed the Board that the Trust is in the process of moving to a new provider for patient experience trackers. He requested feedback from the Governors regarding the format and content of the report.

Providing feedback Governors suggested that the report requires more explanatory narrative and indication of actions or initiatives undertaken as a result of the information. The Governors requested some national comparative data on incidents and complaints.

The Governors discussed the contents of the report and raised a number of questions including how the data is used a ward and divisional level, further analysis of medication incidents and the use of patient experience trackers in other languages including the use of audio-visual aids.

The Governors thanked him for his report.

7. Chief Executives Report

Nancy Hallett introduced the Chief Executives. She briefly summarised the main items in the report.

The Governors discussed the content of the report and wished to pass on their thanks to the Trust staff particularly on the preliminary positive results of the recent CQC visit.

The maternity services were also discussed. It was noted that the service had been very busy, some of which was due to the increased number of mothers attending from

the Romford area. The Trust is monitoring the situation closely, tracking bookings and deliveries.

Governors were also provided with information on how the Trust manages medical student placements. The Trust is the second largest provider of placements for the University and receives very good feedback from students.

The Governors thanked her for her report.

8. Day Surgery Visit

Geoffrey Rivett provided the Governors with feedback from a visit he and the Chief Nurse had carried out on the day surgery unit. This had looked primarily at the patient pathway. He thought that it would be possible the process of discharge easier for patients and the use of parking permits for patients' carers is being considered.

He and the Chief Nurse discussed the possibility of carrying out other visits to different areas of the hospital possibly involving other Governors.

9. Ward Staffing Report

Charlie Sheldon presented a report describing the current compliment of nursing staff on the adult and paediatric wards. He stated that Homerton is delivering care with a higher than national ratio of registered to unregistered nurses and that the Trust is compliant with guidance issued by the Royal College of Nursing. He provided a summary of the data presented in the report including data for critical care areas. The Governors discussed the use of Healthcare assistants and the standard and assessment of their competencies. The Governors noted the report and the current and future actions identified.

10. Staff Restaurant

Charlie Sheldon provided the Governors with a verbal report on the staff restaurant. He informed them that the Trust had reviewed its use by non-staff and it has been noted that it is particularly busy and overcrowded at times. It has been proposed that the restaurant will move to staff only use with the public being redirected to the alternative facilities in the hospital. Governors were assured that there would be exceptions applied to those members of the public needing to use the facilities for valid reasons. The Governors noted the change of use.

11. Any other business

Patricia Bennett raised issues regarding the pricing structure in the Trust shop (WH Smith) which is generally more expensive than local shops. It was agreed that this would be looked into and fed back at a future Governors meeting.

Jaime Bishop updated the Governors regarding his work with East London and City Commissioners.

12. Questions from Members of the Public.

One question was raised regarding the provision of Breast cancer screening which had been the subject of recent media interest. The Trust does not provide Breast screening services and did not feel it was appropriate to comment of this subject.

Next meeting:

1st December Council of Governors meeting