

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

Thursday 11th February 2010

Present:

- Michael Cassidy (Chair)
- Geoffrey Rivett (public governor)
- Doug Hiza (public governor)
- Jamie Bishop (public governor)
- Sarah Weiss (public governor)
- Suri Friedman (public governor)
- Eli Kernkraut (public governor)
- Samantha Fontaine (public governor)
- Swee Fang (staff governor)
- David Griffith (staff governor)
- Dr Lesley Mountford (partner governor)
- Gareth Moore (partner governor)
- Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive
- Pauline Brown, Chief Nurse & Director of Governance
- Andrew Panniker, Director of Environment
- Cheryl Clements, Director of Workforce
- Imelda Redmond, Non-Executive Director
- Eric Sorensen, Non-Executive Director
- Michael Keith, Non-Executive Director
- David Bridger, Head of Governance (minutes)

1. Chairman's welcome

Michael Cassidy Chair of the Council of Governors (CoG) and Chairman of the hospital welcomed the Board and Governors to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

- Dr John Coakley, Medical Director
- Sue Goodship (public governor)
- Chris O'Leary (public governor)

Andrew Shamboko (public governor)

Helen Cugnoni (staff governor)

Marion Goodrich (partner governor)

3. Minutes of Council of Governors meeting 3rd December 2009.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)

Sarah Weiss, public governor presented a paper providing feedback to the Board and Governors on the work of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) and Membership Development Group.

She stated that at the meeting they had discussed and reviewed the focus of the group in light of the newly formed Patient Experience Committee. It had been agreed that the PPI groups focus would now be more strategic receiving reports from divisions and the Patient Experience Committee as well as PALS and other PPI projects.

She provided feedback of the ongoing work for the following:

- Membership development – there had recently been a successful lecture on Bariatric Surgery and a future event is likely to be planned for young people. Membership events and recruitment stands have been organised for the next quarter. A suggestion was made regarding the use of a Governor to provide editorial support for the Memberlink newsletter.
- Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) report – the number of PALS enquiries had remained constant with outpatients showing the highest numbers

She also provided a summary of other points discussed by the group.

The Board and Governors thanked her and noted her report.

5. Constitutional Review

Pauline Brown, Chief Nurse and Director of Governance presented a paper outlining a proposed alteration to the Trust Constitution as part of the requirement to review the Constitution on an annual basis. The Board and Governors were asked to consider the proposal to seek an amendment to clause 12.3 regarding the term of office for elected Governors. She explained that the proposed amendment is being considered because it will give experienced Governors the opportunity to serve the hospital for a longer period thus providing continuity and stability during a period of important strategic change and uncertainty. She provided an outline of three options for consideration.

The Joint Board had a discussion regarding the options described in the paper and felt that options 2 and 3 were not suitable and therefore proposed to support option 1 and amend the constitution to allow Governors to stand for election for three consecutive terms of three years each. It was acknowledged that this would need to be very clearly presented to the membership.

This would now be taken forward and formally presented to the membership for consideration and a formal vote.

A brief discussion was held regarding the option to hold Board of Directors meetings in public. It was acknowledged that whilst many Trust Board meetings are in public all have a closed part. The Board and Governors did not feel that this should be considered at this time but agreed to keep this issue under review.

5. Feedback from Nomination Committee

Geoffrey Rivett informed the Council that the Nomination Committee had met on 14th January 2010. At this meeting the committee considered the re-appointment of Michael Keith as Non-Executive Director. This was agreed based upon summary performance and appraisal information provided by the Chairman of Michael Keith's work to date. The Council of Governors approved the re-appointment.

6. Homerton Service and Performance Update

Pauline Brown provided the Board and Governors with a service update. This featured performance and service developments up to the end of December 2009 and included performance against a range of targets and trust objectives for 2009/10.

Performance Update - She explained that the Trust had been very busy as a direct result of the closures at Whipps Cross Hospital and this may potentially affect our performance targets. She also explained that the 62 day cancer target is under review following some breaches in the urology patient pathway. She also updated the Board and Governors regarding the targets for hospital acquired infections.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Registration - she provided the Board and Governors with a summary of the new CQC registration process and stated that the Trust had formally registered and is awaiting the outcome of this

Service Developments – it is anticipated that the perinatal centre will be completed in July and the delivery suite is due to open this month.

Strategic Reviews – the Trust continues to work with Newham and Whipps Cross Hospitals to evaluate the case in support of integration. She also updated the Board and Governors regarding the reviews of service provision across North East London. This item was covered in more detail later in the meeting.

Quality Report and Accounts - the Board and Governors were provided with a review of performance against the quality performance indicators specifically reducing falls, stroke care, patient experience and maternity.

Finance - the Board and Governors were notified that work continues on the productivity and efficiency programme to identify and deliver savings which for 2010/11 had identified around £7m.

Flu Planning: the Board and Governors were notified that the Trust has now stood down its Operational Flu Pandemic Group. A total of 50% of staff had been vaccinated.

The Board and Governors noted the report.

7. Health4NEL Consultation Response

Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive presented the draft response to the consultation on the future of health care in North East London. This had been agreed by the Board of Directors with input from the Council of Governors and Clinical Board. It was noted that the third sentence in the response to question 8 should read "the closure of one A&E will lead to an increase". A concern was raised regarding the potential changes to services in the future beyond this review that may impact on the Homerton. It was agreed that an additional paragraph would be added to response that would be provided on behalf of the publically elected body. Subject to the above amendments the Board and Governors approved the consultation response.

Nancy Hallett also provided the Board and Governors with an update regarding the talks to consider the integration of Homerton with Newham and Whipps Cross Hospitals. A draft document outlining the options has been written and the Trust is currently considering these.

8. Dates of Meeting 2010-11

Geoffrey Rivett presented the proposed timetable of meetings for the coming year. He explained that the timetable has been reviewed and in light of previous years experience the number of meetings has been reduced but still meets with the Trusts requirements. The Board and Governors noted the timetable.

9. Any other business

None

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be a public meeting of the Council of Governors on Thursday 18th March 2010