

Minutes of the Council of Governors meeting

Thursday 21st October 2010

- Present:**
- Michael Cassidy (Chair)
 - Doug Hiza (public governor)
 - Sarah Horsfield (public governor)
 - Patricia Bennett (public governor)
 - Sarah Weiss (public governor)
 - Florence Osaigbovo (public governor)
 - Jaime Bishop (public governor)
 - Clyde Baker (public governor)
 - Samantha Fontaine (public governor)
 - Suri Friedman (public governor)
 - Marion Goodrich (pct governor)
 - Deborah James (partner governor)
 - David Griffith (staff governor)
 - Dr Swee Fang (staff governor)
 - Robert Duke (staff governor)
 - Val Dimmock (staff governor)
- In attendance:**
- Charlie Sheldon, Chief Nurse & Director of Governance
 - Dr John Coakley, Medical Director
 - David Bridger, Head of Governance (minutes)

1. Chairman's welcome

Michael Cassidy Chair of the Council of Governors and Chairman of the hospital welcomed the Governors to the meeting. He welcomed Sarah Horsfield, Clyde Baker, Patricia Bennett and Val Dimmock, Suri Freedman newly appointed Governors, to the meeting

- 2. Apologies:**
- Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive
 - Geoffrey Rivett (public governor)
 - Sue Goodship (public governor)
 - Dr Lesley Mountford (partner governor)
 - John Bootes (public governor)

3. Declarations of Interests

None

4. Minutes of the Joint Board of Directors and Council of Governors meeting 29th July 2010

The minutes of the previous Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Council of Governors meeting were agreed.

5. Annual Members Meeting

Michael Cassidy presented the minutes and Q&A from the recent Annual Members meeting. The meeting had been very well attended and the presentations provided very well received. He noted the range of questions posed by the members present with particular reference to the question raised regarding holding Board meetings in public.

6. Governors

David Bridger confirmed the results of the recent Governor elections noting that there had been no nominations received from members in the outer constituency and therefore the Trust continues to have one vacancy.

He also notified the Governors that he had received a resignation from one public Hackney Governor, Mr Chris O'Leary. He informed the Governors that under the constitution the Governors could agree to appoint the next nearest Governor in terms of votes received at the recent elections. The Governors agreed that the next nearest Governor should be contacted and allowed to stand as a Governor should he wish to.

It was noted that Geoffrey Rivett had been re-elected as a Governor representing the City constituency. The Governors agreed that he should continue in his role as vice-chair of the Council of Governors.

7. Patient Experience Update

Charlie Sheldon presented a paper providing an update on patient experience at Homerton. He summarised some of the issues regarding the results of the survey including the very low response rates which are amongst the lowest in the country. To provide better assurance in the future it has been agreed that the Trust will be allowed to submit additional evidence regarding patient experience, such as the results of the patient experience tracker, which will be taken into account alongside the patient survey results. It is anticipated that this will provide the Trust with a stronger and better informed score in the survey when the results are published.

He provided the Governors with information on the following:

- Local initiatives including First Tuesday, inclusion of Community Health staff on the Patient experience Committee, carer's focus groups and the noise at night project.
- Care Quality Commission and the process for inspections of Trusts under its compliance regime
- Infection Control including data on the number of MRSA bacteraemias the Trust has received to date, audits of line care and additional training.
- Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) requirements which had been achieved for quarter 1.

The Governors raised a number of questions including the impact of national cuts on the provision of services, determination of the MRSA target and the poster campaign for hand washing.

Sarah Weiss, public Governors requested that any Governors wishing to take part in the First Tuesday visits should contact Jennie Negus.

8. Community Health Services (CHS)

Dr John Coakley presented a paper updating the Governors regarding the ongoing work to ensure the safe transfer of community health services to the Homerton. This is scheduled to take place on 1st April 2011. He summarised the types of services being transferred, the numbers of staff and the value of these services. It was noted that the services will continue to be provided from community settings and where these are jointly provided with the local authority these will continue unchanged.

He explained that the Trust is continuing to carry out the detailed piece work which will need to be approved by NHS London, Monitor and the cooperation panel. A small number of issues have been identified that require resolution prior to seeking formal authorisation. Additionally work is taking place to define where quality and financial benefits can be achieved through integration. Further updates regarding this work will be provided to future Governors meetings.

The Governors were then provided with presentations from a number of CHS staff namely:

Mary Burkett – Associate Director Adults, Older People and Primary Care.
Heather Scott - Occupational Therapist
Andre Dunn – Community Matron
Marianne Hill – Enhanced Modern Matron Community Children's Nursing Team

They provided an overview of the services provided by CHS and specific examples from the clinicians present.

The Governors thanked the CHS staff for their time and for what was regarded as a very interesting and informative presentation.

9. Any other business

None

10. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be a meeting of the Council of Governors on Thursday 18th November 2010.