

## Minutes of the Council of Governors meeting

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**Present:** Michael Cassidy (Chair)  
Geoffrey Rivett (public governor)  
John Bootes (public governor)  
Jaime Bishop (public governor)  
Suri Friedman (public governor)  
Sarah Weiss (public governor)  
Robert Duke (staff governor)  
Eli Kernkraut (public governor)  
Nancy Hallett, Chief Executive  
Jo Farrar, Director of Finance  
Melanie Mavers, Head of Clinical Quality  
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 Governors to the meeting. He welcomed Robert Duke newly elected staff Governor to his first meeting.

**2. Apologies:** Joe Lobenstein (public governor)  
Sue Goodship (public governor)  
Florence Osaigbovo (public governor)  
Dr Helen Cugnoni (staff governor)  
Doug Hiza (public governor)  
Gareth Moore (partner governor)

### 3. Minutes of the Council of Governors meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

### 4. Hackney LINK Presentation

Esther Norman of Hackney was unable to attend the meeting to provide the Governors with a presentation on the role of Hackney LINK. This will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

## **5. Governor Conduct**

David Bridger presented the Governors with information regarding an investigation into the concerns regarding the conduct of a public Governor. Following discussion by the Governors it was agreed that the Governor should be written to regarding his conduct by the Chairman.

## **6. Constitutional Review**

David Bridger presented the minutes of a members meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010 to discuss the proposed changes to the Trust constitution which will allow Governors to stand for election for three consecutive terms of three years each. A total of 67 members were in attendance at the meeting and in addition to a presentation by Pauline Brown, Chief Nurse and Director of Governance, on the proposed changes to the constitution they were also provided with a presentations on the Quality Accounts and a lecture and short film on Breast awareness in black women in East London.

At the meeting members had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed constitutional amendment hearing arguments for and against the proposed change. Following consideration of the members views the Chairman called for members to vote by show of hands. The results of the vote were 34 in favour and 33 against. As the voting was close a number of members requested a recount and members were asked to vote a second time. The result of the second vote was 33 in favour and 33 against.

As per the constitution clause 11.14 in the case of equality of votes the chair had the casting vote. In this case the chair voted in favour of the amendment. The motion to amend the constitution to allow Governors to stand for three consecutive terms of three years each was carried subject to approval by the independent regulator.

David Bridger informed the Governors that Monitor had agreed in principle to allow the constitutional change subject to written confirmation.

## **7. Quality Account**

Melanie Mavers, Head of Clinical Quality presented the Trusts Draft Quality Account for 2009/10. She informed the Governors that positive feedback had been received following the presentation on the Quality Account at the recent members meeting and a number of members had requested copies of the draft report for comment. These have now been sent out to those members. Feedback had also been requested from Hackney LINK, NHS London, Overview and Scrutiny and the PCT. The Governors discussed the quality improvement initiatives in the Account and provided feedback. The Governors thanked her for presenting the Account.

## **8. Annual Plan/Corporate Objectives 2010/11**

Jo Farrar, Director of Finance provided the Governors with a presentation on the Trusts 2010/11 Annual Plan. The Governors were informed that this year the plan is required to fit into the template prescribed by Monitor. He informed the Governors that a small group of Governors had recently met to discuss and provide input into the development of the plan and any comments arising from this meeting had been incorporated.

He summarised the key achievements, the identified areas for improvement and financial highlights from 2009/10. He then presented the Governors with the core objectives and key priorities for 2010/11, these were:

Core objectives:

- Deliver **high quality safe services** to the people of Hackney and surrounding areas – whilst we focus on determining the Homerton's strategic path
- Respond effectively to the challenging economic climate, **ensuring the hospital remains clinically and financially viable**
- **Look after our workforce** through a time of significant change, ensuring that their enthusiasm for serving the people in our care does not waiver

Key Priorities:

1. Provide optimal health care in terms of quality, safety, and effectiveness – the day job
2. Improve levels of quality, safety and patient satisfaction
3. Successful transfer and integration of NHS City and Hackney community health services
4. Implement a range of strategic service developments
5. Develop strategic response to Health for North East London
6. Define an appropriate Olympic legacy

He went on to summarise the key elements to allow implementation of the objectives and priorities in the context of the specific external drivers. He concluded by providing a summary of the Trusts financial projections.

The Governors discussed the plan and agreed to provide Jo Farrar with any comments prior to final approval. The Governors thanked him for the presentation.

## **9. Community Health Services**

Nancy Hallett provided the Governors with a verbal update regarding the transfer of community health services (CHS) from NHS City and Hackney to Homerton. NHS City and Hackney had agreed to transfer the services to Homerton at their Board meeting in March. Subject to procedural matters, the contract for provision of CHS for Hackney will transfer to the Homerton in April 2011; there are approximately 37 community health services, the largest being district nursing and health visiting. This is a big service transfer and will require the Trust to re-organise its ways of working. She informed the Governors that by integrating community and hospital services and providing these in close conjunction with GPs, there is an excellent opportunity to improve healthcare for Hackney residents. Further details regarding this matter will be presented to the joint meeting in July.

## **10. Any other business**

None

## **11. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Council of Governors on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010