

Council of Governors

8 March 2023

Report Title:	Membership and Engagement update
Executive/NED Lead:	Interim Director of Governance
Report author(s):	Ann Filby, Trust Secretary
Previously considered by:	N/A

Approval
 Discussion
 Information
 Assurance

Executive summary

The Council has two main functions/general duties included at paragraph 16 of the Trust Constitution, and as most recently described in The Code of governance for NHS provider trusts 2022:

NHS foundation trusts are public benefit corporations and their boards of directors have a framework of local accountability through members and a council of governors. The NHS foundation trust council of governors is responsible for holding the non-executive directors individually and collectively to account. In turn, NHS foundation trust governors are accountable to the members who elect them and must represent their interests and the interests of the public.

The Trust must take steps to ensure that governors are equipped with the skills and knowledge that they require to undertake their role.

In fulfilling the Code's requirements of good governance, it states: *Satisfactory engagement between the board of directors, the council of governors and members of foundation trusts, and patients, service users and the public is crucial to the effectiveness of trusts' corporate governance approach.*

Delivery of these requirements has previously been undertaken through the Membership and Engagement Working Group, led by the Trust's Associate Director of Engagement, as referenced within the Board approved Communications and Engagement Strategy 2022-24. Engagement during the pandemic was challenging and a reset is required of how this is approached to gain the maximum benefit from the time that governors have available.

With new governors in place from November 2022, a membership engagement plan is at a first draft stage, for further discussion with the Associate Director of Engagement, prior to considering with the Membership and Engagement Working Group. Meetings are due to be scheduled for 2023/24 and led by the Trust Secretariat, proposed as April, July, October, January. Potential dates will be circulated shortly to all governors who have previously indicated an interest in attending.

A final membership plan and how the Council intends to deliver that plan will be presented to the Council in June for consideration and approval.

Action Required of the Council

The Council is invited to note the membership and engagement update.

Link to Strategic Objectives (SO)		Please tick
SO1	Keep people in control of their health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO2	Lead the integration of care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO3	Develop our centres of excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO4	Support and develop our staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO5	Drive technology enabled care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Implications for the Trust <i>(including any clinical and financial consequences)</i>		
Trust Risk Appetite	The Board has a cautious risk appetite when it comes to compliance and regulatory issues. Where the laws, regulations and standards are about the delivery of safe, high quality care, it will make every effort to meet regulator expectations and comply with them and will only challenge them if there is strong evidence or argument to do so.	
Legal and regulatory implications <i>(including links to CQC outcomes, Monitor, inspections, audits, etc.)</i>	Meeting all governance requirements of being an NHS Foundation Trust and ensuring that the Council of Governors is supported to undertake its general duties in line with legislative requirements.	
Financial Implications	N/A	
Equality and Diversity	Working closely with the corporate communications and engagement team to enable hard to reach communities to engage with the Trust.	