

**Council of Governors**

Tuesday 19 September 2023

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Lead Governor's report</b>
<b>Executive/NED Lead:</b>	N/A
<b>Report author(s):</b>	Helen Rose
<b>Previously considered by:</b>	N/A

Approval
  Discussion
  Information
  Assurance

<b>Executive summary</b>
An update is provided on the activities of the Lead Governor in supporting the Council in meeting its general duties.
<b>Action Required of the Council</b>
The Council is invited to note the report.

## Lead Governor's Report

Since our last Council of Governors meeting on 29 June, we were alerted on 7 July to the appointment of the ESNEFT Chief Executive as the interim Chief Executive at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for a period of six months. The Chief Executive would remain the Accountable Officer of ESNEFT during this period while a process was taking place to appoint a new Chief Executive at Norwich.

As Lead Governor I was very grateful to our Chair for discussing the situation with me and subsequently to Eddie Bloomfield for meeting with me to answer relevant questions that had come to me from Governors.

As a result, I was able to report to Governors that I had gained absolute assurance from the Non-Executive Director (NED) team that the right decisions had been made and that arrangements going forward would be in the best interests of patients.

I continue to meet with both the Trust Secretary and the Trust Chair to share ideas about Governor involvement across the constituencies and ways that we can be supported to carry out our roles. We do look forward to elections for new Governors to take place as soon as possible. With several vacancies across the patch, we do need to ensure that the people this Trust serves are able to be fully represented by elected Governors in each constituency.

Our Appointments and Performance Committee was convened on 5 September to talk about succession planning relating to NED appointments, including that of the Chair, and to agree plans for the process to appoint to a current NED vacancy.

We have continued to have a presence at Trust Board meetings and to ask pertinent questions alongside any members of the public who are present. Both this and our observer status at Trust Assurance Committees continue to help us to check how the NEDs are holding the Trust to account. The Kesgrave Community Centre, where our current meeting is to be held, also feels like an ideal venue for the Trust Board too, in that if members of the public want to attend, it is well known in the area and accessible in every way.

A number of Governors, both public and staff, have been signing up for the '15 Steps' and 'Place' visits to the Trust's wards, departments and community settings, alongside the Patient Experience Team and with representatives of the NED team – another opportunity to get to know the NEDs and to hear directly from ESNEFT staff and for them to get to know us.

I was delighted to be able to attend a virtual tour of the Dame Clare Marx Orthopaedic Centre at the end of July, along with the patient group that has been involved from early in the planning stages. This was another example of "You said, we've done", enabling that particular group to see the physical evidence of their suggestions in reality. I also joined a "15 Steps" visit to the Urgent Treatment Centre at Clacton Hospital at which we were able to extend it, to be taken round the outstanding Diagnostic Centre, serving people in the Essex end of our patch.

I'm sure Governors will join me appreciating these varied and interesting opportunities to get to know the services ESNEFT provides, over and above our statutory duties.