

Council of Governors

Wednesday 6 December 2023

Report Title:	Lead Governor's report
Executive/NED Lead:	N/A
Report author(s):	Helen Rose

Approval

Discussion

Information

Assurance

Executive summary

An update is provided on the activities of the Lead Governor in supporting the Council in meeting its general duties.

Action Required of the Council

The Council is invited to note the report.

Lead Governor's Report

On 30 October, four Governor members of the Appointments and Performance Committee met to interview candidates for the vacant non-executive position. Our decision to appoint Karen Sinnott was ratified at our private meeting on 8 November. We hope to have an opportunity to get to know Karen better at one of our informal meetings with our Chair.

At our last informal meeting on 9 November, we appreciated Hussein Khatib's update on his very full involvement as a NED. We also learnt more about how the Patient Record System is to be simplified, working towards implementation of an electronic system by the end of 2025. We look forward to being involved in the Patient Portal stage of the implementation.

This particular meeting also offered us a comprehensive training session on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Even though some of us may think we understand the full implications of the issues, there's always so much more to learn. Our thanks go to Sara Johnson for giving us so much of her time and for clarifying this important subject for us.

I continue to attend the Accessible Information Group (ICB). The meeting this month had a particular focus on difficulties experienced by those whose first language isn't English and who need to access suitable interpreters within healthcare.

We continue to have a presence at ESNEFT's Board meetings and on 2 November, five Public Governors and one Staff Governor were in attendance as observers.

We were pleased to meet with the Director of Governance and the Trust Secretary to take part in the on-going discussions about possible amendments to ESNEFT's Constitution. Our particular focus was on the Council of Governors' constituencies and how the election of staff and public Governors to these constituencies would work most effectively.

Thank you to the Communications Team for inviting me to attend the Long Service Awards tea party on 1 November at Milsoms in Kesgrave. It was a privilege to host one of the tables of ESNEFT staff from across the organisation, whom I think, between them had given 360 years of service to the NHS. The quiz was a great ice-breaker but sadly our table didn't do well enough to win a prize!

I was pleased to represent the Council of Governors at ESNEFT's Act of Remembrance at Colchester Hospital on 10 November, remembering that this Council of Governors includes a representative of Colchester's Garrison who is himself in the Strategic Command Headquarters Defence Medical Services Group.