



Council of Governors

Wednesday 13 March 2024

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 Report to Council of Governors, 13 March 2024

We met with the Chair informally on 5 February at the Trust's offices at Colchester and Karen Sinnott, Non-Executive Director, joined us to tell us more about her background and how she was settling into her new role on the Board. This particular meeting, attended by eight Governors, was very productive, covering a number of areas. We talked about governors' role in Governance being quite dry but being more in contact with staff and patients via PLACE Visits and 15 Steps, for example, is one way to ameliorate this. We expressed our concern that Ipswich currently has only one public governor and that this large and diverse community deserves better representation on the Council of Governors. This led to a discussion about how we could support the drive towards encouraging people to put themselves forward for election.

And as we approach elections for eight new Governors this summer, spare a thought for Papworth FT, a Tertiary Trust, which is required to draw its Public Governors from Cambridgeshire, the Rest of England and Wales, Cornwall and Scotland!

I continue to attend the Accessible Information Group (ICB), which is always enlightening. This month's meeting will be taking place just after this report has to be submitted but I'll be happy to give more information to Governors under our 'Activities' - agenda item 18.

You will see from later in today's agenda that our Membership and Engagement Group met on 21 February. Governor Martin Nixon will be reporting on this under agenda item 17.

Congratulations to the Trust on an excellent Annual Meeting which happened on line on 21 February. This was a short meeting but with each report being delivered simply and on point with lots of positive messages.

And finally, as a point of interest: I continue to join the (virtual) Lead Governor (LG) Network meetings. On 8 Dec seven LGs attended from across our region. The hope was expressed that there would be an Annual Meeting with the Integrated Care Board this year for all FTs plus their Governors. We learnt from one of our LG colleagues who represents us on the Governor Committee of NHS Providers, that this committee is to be disbanded by the end of this month. I'm looking to have a conversation about this with either our Trust Secretary or Director of Governance.

Thank you to Ann, the Trust Secretary for the time she has given to meet me to discuss matters relating to Governors and to Richard Spencer, the Senior Independent Director, with whom I have started working in support of the Chair's appraisal process. And of course to Helen, our Chair, for continuing to arrange one to ones with me so that we can update each other and to discuss future agendas.

Helen Rose