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Report to the Meeting of the Members' Council

For: Information

17 February 2009

The NHS Constitution

Executive Summary

On 21 January 2009, the Prime Minister joined the Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson, and NHS Chief Executive, David Nicholson, to formally launch and sign The NHS Constitution for England. A copy of the Constitution is attached.

The Constitution sets out rights, pledges and responsibilities for staff and patients. Subject to Parliamentary approval, all NHS bodies in England will be required by law to take account of the Constitution in their decisions and actions.

Further information on the Constitution may be found at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NHSConstitution/index.htm> (the Trust Secretary is able to provide hardcopies of any documents to Governors on request).

The Trust's Board of Directors will consider the Constitution in the coming weeks.

The Members' Council considered the draft NHS constitution at its meeting in July 2008.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to note the NHS Constitution.

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