

# Report to the Meeting of the

**CoG 06/2021**

(Agenda item: 06)

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Council of Governors

**Wednesday 16 June 2021**

**Lead/Deputy Lead Governor Update**

**For: Information**

**Chris Roberts**

I begin my tenure as Lead Governor by thanking Chris Roberts sincerely for the outstanding service he has given to the Council of Governors and to the Trust as Governor and Lead Governor over the past 8 years. Chris has brought a steady, balanced and quietly effective authority to bear in his role as Lead Governor, and has worked collaboratively with both the Governors and the Board to achieve significant developments. His wise counsel has been welcomed by Governors. His firm but respectful manner has consolidated closer working with Non-Executive and Executive Directors alike. He has held the Council’s line despite the challenges to governance resulting from the pandemic.

I am delighted (and relieved!) that Chris will continue as Deputy Lead Governor for the next few months. – Mike Hobbs

**Governor elections**

Last year’s election for new Governors having been suspended because of the pandemic, the results of the recent elections could hardly have been better. 41 candidates stood for the 18 Governor vacancies, and all positions have been filled – 3 with the re-election of outgoing Governors, and the other 15 positions with high calibre recruits. Although we have lost a few valued Governors, we are hopeful that they will continue to contribute as active Members of the Trust.

The experience, skills and personal qualities brought by the new Governors will enhance the vitality and effectiveness of the Council. So too will the very welcome increase in diversity of the Council, with greater numbers of women and service user Governors, representation of people with disabilities, ethnic minority and LGBTQ communities.

An active programme of induction, training and support is underway for new Governors.

**Council of Governors development**

A survey of Governors was undertaken in May to explore potential developments in the way the Council works, and helpful feedback has been obtained from Governors and NEDs. The issues raised relate to the roles and responsibilities of Governors, support and development of Governors, Member engagement, and some practical aspects of CoG meetings. The outcomes will be summarised and addressed by CoG.

**CoG / Board strategy meeting, 15 July**

In this joint strategy meeting we anticipate discussing how the Council of Governors and Board of Directors will work together in future. This will include focus on collaboration between Governors, Non-Executive and Executive Directors to optimise governance and support the Trust’s strategic ambitions.

**Breaking Down Barriers**

As part of Learning Disability Week, June 14-20, the Trust is looking to encourage conversation about how small, practical changes can make mainstream healthcare easier to access for people with a learning disability – and as a result, for everybody.

Newly elected Trust Governor and Expert by Experience Ben McCay will talk on video about his experience of accessing mainstream physical and mental health services. Ben has been actively involved in co-creating and evaluating services and will give his top tips for small changes that make a big difference.

A lunchtime webinar on Tuesday 22nd June at 12:30 will hear from clinicians and service users how this can be achieved. You can join via this link: [bit.ly/Health-Matters-LD-Week](https://bit.ly/Health-Matters-LD-Week).

**Potential priorities for Governor** **focus** include

* Post-pandemic recovery, including:
  + waiting lists, especially for CAMHS, eating disorders, autism
  + staff morale & retention
  + restoration of the governance framework; review of CoG sub-groups
* Member & public engagement
* Redevelopment of the Warneford Hospital
* Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System – implications for governance and accountability
* Digital security

**Author and Title: Mike Hobbs, Lead Governor**

**Chris Roberts, Deputy Lead Governor**