

# Report to the Meeting of the

**CoG 09/2021**

(Agenda item: 12)

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Council of Governors

**Wednesday 16 June 2021**

**Governor Elections**

**For: Information**

**Executive Summary**

The Council of Governors’ election process this year began with nominations running from 25 March to 13 April. Candidates’ statements were published from 30 April and polls were open from 4 to 24 May, with results announced on 25 May 2021.

There were 18 vacancies, and 18 governors were elected. Four seats were filled uncontested, and 14 in a contested poll.

The election was run independently from the Trust by Civica Engagement Solutions (CES), and promoted through the Trust website, intranet, Governors’ extranet, social media, press, events and advertising, by the Trust’s Communications and Engagement team.

**Recommendation**

The Council of Governors is invited to note the report.

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**Lead Executive Director:** Kerry Rogers, Director of Corporate Affairs

1. **Membership engagement in the election and results**

The Trust had 18 seats up for election, which attracted a total of 41 candidates.

Eighteen governors were elected. Three of the governors were re-elected (Allan Johnson, Jacky McKenna and Gillian Evans) and 15 are new to the role.

Two classes were uncontested: Service user – Buckinghamshire and other counties, and Staff – Specialised Services.

The table below shows engagement and results by constituency and class.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Constituency** | **Class** | **Seats** | **Candidates** | **Elected** | **Turnaround** |
| Patient | Carers | 2 | 5 | Allan JohnsonNyarai Humba | 12.00% |
| Patient | Service Users Buckinghamshire & other counties | 3 | 3 | Julien FitzgeraldJacky McKennaClaire Sessions | n/a |
| Patient | Service Users Oxfordshire | 4 | 7 | Jonathan ColeGillian EvansBenjamin McCayKaren Squibb-Williams | 8.30% |
| Public | Buckinghamshire | 3 | 7 | Anna GardnerChristiana KoladeTabitha Wishlade | 11.30% |
| Public | Oxfordshire | 1 | 5 | Melissa Clements | 8.20% |
| Public | Rest of England & Wales | 1 | 3 | Tendai Nyoni | 7.20% |
| Staff | Buckinghamshire Mental Health Services | 1 | 4 | Giles Loch | 6.90% |
| Staff | Oxfordshire BANES, Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) Mental Health Services | 1 | 4 | Ekenna Hutchinson | 5.70% |
| Staff | Corporate Services | 1 | 2 | Charlotte Forder | 9.10% |
| Staff | Specialised Services | 1 | 1 | Perry Ssenyonga  | n/a |
|   |   | **18** | **41** |   |   |

1. **Election timetable**

The election was managed by an independent company Civica Engagement Solutions. The election timetable was as follows:

Nominations opened March 25

Nominations closed April 13

Polls opened May 4

Polls closed May 24

Results published May 25

1. **Communications and promotion of the election**

The nomination period and voting period were promoted by:

* weekly features and news stories on the Trust website;
* related posts on social media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn;
* paid social media campaign on Facebook
* weekly stories on the Trust intranet and in the weekly all-staff email newsletter;
* Membership Matters newsletter and specific election related emails and invitations to governor information events to all Trust members
* Special leaflets on the governor’s role, vacancies available and how to take part
* press releases to local media in three counties; and
* two candidate info evenings held on Microsoft Teams. These were very well attended and resulted in lively conversation online. Thank you to governors Chris Roberts, Mike Hobbs, Ben Glass and Angela Conlan for joining these events and answering candidates’ numerous questions.

Trust governors were active in promoting the elections in their circles and we would like to express our thank you to: Mike Hobbs, Chris Roberts, Ben Glass, Hannah-Louise Toomey, Maureen Cundell, Angela Mcpherson, Angela Conlan and Hasanen Al-Taiar.

Apart from promoting the election itself, our communications featured the following topics:

* What inspires our current governors? Thank you to governors Hannah-Louise Toomey, Ben Glass and Hasanen Al-Taiar for sharing their personal stories.
* What does the role of the governor entail? How much time do I need to put in?
* Am I qualified to be a governor? Explaining that you don’t need to have any formal qualifications, just be a member and have an interest in developing our Trust
* Only members can stand as a candidate and vote. In order to vote you needed to become a member by a certain date (April 13.) As a result of election and membership campaign starting in January 2021, the Trust gained over 200 new members.
* You can stand as a candidate and vote in the constituency/class where you are signed up as a member. If you are unsure what your constituency is, please contact the membership team and we’ll check it for you.

We also produced information leaflets targeted to carers, members of Oxfordshire Mental Health Partnership and members in Buckinghamshire. Thank you to governor Angela Macpherson for helping to reach stakeholders in Buckinghamshire.

The results of the election, along with the successful candidates’ statements and photographs, were published Tuesday, May 25. This was done online on our website and intranet, in social media and by press release to our news desk contact list across all counties served.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is invited to note the report*.*