

# Report to the Meeting of the

**CoG 13/2021**

(Agenda item: 08)

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Council of Governors

**Thursday 09 September 2021**

**Lead Governor Update**

**For: Information**

**Farewell and welcome**:

* 1. Having been appointed to an Occupational Therapist post at Highfield, **Hannah-Louise Toomey** is stepping down from her Oxfordshire Public Governor position this month. She has contributed greatly to the vitality and effectiveness of CoG over the past 2 years, and could readily have accepted an OT post elsewhere, so we are delighted she has chosen to work with Oxford Health. We wish her well and look forward to her standing for election as a Staff Governor in due course. The Trust is exploring whether this Governor position can be filled by another candidate at the recent governor election.
  2. **Councillor Carl Jackson** has been appointed to the Council of Governors to represent Buckinghamshire Council, where he is Deputy Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing. We welcome Carl and look forward to working with him.

**Development of the Council of Governors (CoG)**:

A number of actions have been initiated to engage our numerous new Governors and to promote CoG’s cohesion and effectiveness.

* 1. **Governor 1to1 conversations**: The Lead Governor and Deputy Lead Governor have held conversations to welcome and engage with a number of new Governors and aim to meet with all others in the next few weeks.
  2. **Constituency meetings**: Meetings have been held or are being arranged for new and established Governors in the following constituencies - Service Users, Carers, Staff, and Public constituencies - plus a meeting of appointed Governors.
  3. **Member Advisory Group**: Meetings have been held with (1) a number of former Governors who left CoG recently at the end of their terms of office, and (2) a number of candidates at this year’s Governor elections who were not elected but expressed interest in supporting the Council of Governors. A combined meeting of these two groups of active Trust Members will be held in September.
  4. **Governor working groups**: At a recent meeting of the Governors’ Forum, a number of Governors expressed interest in / volunteered to contribute to Governor working groups on key subjects including CoG development, redevelopment of the Warneford Hospital, Research & Development, and introduction of the new Mental Health Act.

**Council of Governors’ sub-groups**: Suggestions have been raised about replacing the previous sub-groups, suspended throughout the pandemic, with an alternative programme to enable Governors to fulfil our governance responsibilities. Pending discussion of alternatives, it has been suggested that the existing sub-group framework will be reinstated for quarters 3 & 4, i.e. until March 2022. New chairs and NED deployments will need to be agreed as soon as possible. The existing CoG sub-groups are: Safety & Clinical Effectiveness Group, Patient & Carer Experience Group, Staff Experience Group, Membership & Involvement Group, Finance & Information Group.

**Exceptional People Award**: Having been suspended since early in the pandemic, the Trust’s Exceptional People Award is being reintroduced this month to celebrate the sterling contributions of individual staff members and teams. The following Governors will form the judging panel for individual awards: Jacky McKenna (Service User Governor, Buckinghamshire), Jonathan Cole (Service User Governor, Oxfordshire), Nyarai Humba (Carer Governor), Anna Gardner (Public Governor, Buckinghamshire), Mike Hobbs (Public Governor, Oxfordshire & Lead Governor). Nominations for an award can be made by staff, patients, carers and the public.

**Appointment of Non-Executive Directors** (NEDs): Three NEDs will stand down in the next few months – Aroop Mozumder, Sir John Allison, Bernard Galton. A recruitment process has been initiated to which Governor members of the Council’s Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) will contribute. It is expected that NRC’s recommendations for appointment will be presented to a special meeting of the Council of Governors in late September or early October.

**Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire West Integrated Care System** (BOB ICS): ICSs are being developed with a ‘go live’ date of April 2022. BOB ICS will promote collaboration between NHS Trusts, Primary Care Networks, local councils, voluntary & charitable sector organisations, and other partners. To anticipate this highly significant development, Oxford Health’s Lead Governor is making contact with counterparts in other Trusts, local government and key 3rd sector organisations. The outcome of meetings with key partners will be reported at future Council meetings.

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