

# Report to the Meeting of the

**CoG 18/2021**

(Agenda item: 06)

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Council of Governors

**Thursday 25 November 2021**

**Lead Governor Update**

**For: Information**

1. **Welcome:** Donna Han has been appointed to replace Hannah-Louise Toomey as Public Governor for Oxfordshire. Because Hannah-Louise was in her third year as a Governor, Donna’s term will be until May 2022. Subject to formalities, Ronnie Meechan has been appointed as Public Governor for the Rest of England and Wales until 2024, replacing Tendai Nyoni. We welcome both Donna and Ronnie to the Council of Governors
2. **Development of the Council of Governors (CoG):**

Progress has been made in our programme to support recently-elected 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 all but two new Governors. Although it’s not been possible to allocate ‘buddies’ to Governors, we hope to follow up our conversations with further supportive contacts.
	2. **Constituency meetings:** Meetings have been held of new and established Governors in all Governor constituencies - Service Users, Carers, Staff, and Public constituencies, plus a meeting of appointed Governors from partner organisations - with the aim of getting to know each other and agree common interests and priorities. Governors may continue to meet informally within these constituencies to address key issues in common, but constituency meetings have no formal role within the governance framework. Instead, Governors have been encouraged to sign up for the CoG sub-groups which will be reactivated shortly - see below.
	3. **Member Advisory Group:** A combined meeting was held in October of a number of former Governors and candidates at this year’s Governor elections who were not elected but expressed interest in supporting the Council of Governors. The aim of MAG is to advance the engagement of Trust Members and the wider public, both to seek feedback about services and to involve a wider population in Trust Forums and governance. MAG will support focussed open meetings when these become possible again.
	4. **Governor engagement with constituents:** Governors are accountable to our constituents. As pandemic restrictions on meeting in public are relaxed, a programme of engagement will be developed.
1. **Council of Governors’ sub-groups:** A suggestion to replace the previous sub-groups with an alternative governance programme has been dropped in favour of reinstating the sub-groups, but with increased interface with the Board of Directors‘ Committee meetings. Governors are encouraged to observe Board Committee meetings and will take their subject matter into the sub-groups. The CoG sub-groups are Safety & Clinical Effectiveness Group, Patient & Carer Experience Group (including Mental Health Act matters), Staff Experience Group, Membership & Involvement Group, Finance & Information Group.
2. **Appointment of Non-Executive Directors (NEDs):** The Trust attracted a high number and calibre of applicants for three current and imminent NED vacancies. Four Governors took part in interviews, the outcome of which will hopefully lead shortly to approval of NED appointments by the Council of Governors.
3. **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. Oxford Health’s Lead Governor continues to engage with counterparts in partner organisations in order to contribute to building a collaborative framework across the BOB area. The appointments of BOB ICS Chair and Chief Executive are still awaited.

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