

Council of Governors

Date:	10 th March 2022
Agenda item:	13
Title:	Lead Governor Report
Items:	Enclosed

24/02/2022

Lead Governor Report

The purpose of this report is to:

- Review progress against objectives agreed in November 2021
- Consider our role in outreach and communications, as the pandemic eases

Dec 2021 – February 2022

Below are the summary points of objectives for action within this period, the progress made and suggested future action.

Agreed Action	Progress	Revised action plan
COG		
Re-election of Chair	All Governors surveyed and feedback encouraged. Unanimously positive feedback received from over 80% of Governors.	CoG to approve the re-election of Alison Ryan as Chair of the Trust for a second term.
NED attendance and participation at CoG	Whilst attendance is achieved, Governors would benefit from a 10-minute NED presentation at CoG (rotational), to build Governor awareness of role and focus and our working relationships	Maintain the formal NED Q & A session at CoG, and plan for regular NED presentation at CoG. Perhaps this could be considered by our NED colleagues for 2022?
Succession planning for Lead Governor role	Discussion document circulated and DLG role defined with JD in line with other BSW NHS Trusts. Governors invited to propose individuals for DLG role.	Progress to appointment of our first Deputy Lead Governor, ideally to be ratified at March 2022 CoG meeting.
WGs		
Board Monitoring Group (BMG)	Attendance at Board meeting by Governor observers is in healthy numbers. Discussion with attending Governors post-BMG helps us to focus on assurance questioning.	Attendees reminded to inform membership office of intention to observe, and to try and contribute post Board meeting, at the designated Governor BMG zoom meeting. The output of the BMG is a brief report which is then shared with the membership office and referenced in the AGM papers.
General		

Agreed Action	Progress	Revised action plan
Develop relationships with neighbouring BSW Trusts, for the purpose of benchmarking our function and easy adoption of best practice for Governors, where identified.	Meeting held with our BSW Lead and Deputy Lead Governor colleagues from Swindon and Salisbury, virtually in January 2022. Next meeting planned for April 2022.	This meeting is aligned to the M&O WG, and our representatives are Mike Midgely, Peter McCowen, and Gill Little.
All public Governors to have nhs.net email addresses	Some progress on this. Governors to telephone IT support to obtain individual log in detail	Once Governors have secured individual mail boxes, there will also be some Microsoft Teams training in the Spring, which will facilitate the ability to use discussion and document sharing platforms for Governors.
Governor Away day - review of holding to account	On hold during COVID	Future objective
An update to the progress around the Patient and Carer Experience Strategy, received by Laura Davies, Deputy Lead for Patient and Carer Experience, as presented to the Quality Working Group on 11 th February 2022.	The strategy would map out how the organisation would engage and involve patients, their families and carers. Staff would be asked about their experience in relation to patients and the Trust would then engage with patients, the local community and harder to reach groups about their experience. Following this they would be brought together into focus groups to clarify themes and to facilitate in depth discussions between staff and patients. A stakeholder group would then be established to write the strategy;	Meetings with staff had commenced and the team was in the process of arranging more of these;

Other key areas for awareness or consideration/development March 2022 – May 2022

Until the Trust is satisfied with the inherent risk level from Covid, CoG and all working group meetings will continue to be held virtually. However, it is possible that our June CoG may be a physical meeting, if all continues as anticipated. Additional activity and other considerations are mentioned below:

Increased Governor involvement in Trust Engagement events post pandemic.
May constituency meeting likely to be virtual, with agenda proposed by Wiltshire
Governors –

1. Elective backlog recovery
2. Sulis as a success story, OR:
3. Changes in A/E as success story

Governors from other constituencies who have discussed agenda's, to have input and participate in the May meeting.

Second meeting in September to be physical ideally – please present your proposals to Roxy.

As a Council, Governors are doing an excellent job in formulating assurance questions for our NED's. To ensure other Governors have a chance to view and contribute to the NED questions which are submitted and prevent these becoming 'lost' between working groups, it is proposed that we develop an 'Assurance Log', which would group all NED questions assimilated and submitted to our NEDs. The aim would be for the log to be updated with each additional question formatted, and with each response obtained, and circulated prior to each CoG. To prevent a log becoming unwieldy, it may be necessary to format the style to keep it legible and helpful.

Governor input to the 'Big Question' exercise, relating to the RUH Vision workshops, has been taking place during January and February. An energetic and thoughtful session was held with several Governors, with Steven Fuller presiding alongside the RUH Business Development Team. There have previously been 600 replies from staff, and all outputs will help towards an 11th April launch.

A suggestion from public Governor Peter B, is to have a short introduction video from each Governor, for inclusion in the RUH website. Purpose of this is to provide a more interesting visual representation of who we are and which area we cover. Additionally, a link to each video could be added to the membership form. This idea has been discussed with Alison Ryan and Lucy Kearney, Head of Communications, and will be worked up further.

Lucy Kearney is now hosting a regular meeting with myself as LG and one other Governor, to keep the lines of communication open with Governors, between our quarterly CoG meetings. If any Governor has an item they would like raised with Lucy, or wish to attend, please communicate with GL or MM.

Lucy and the Comms team want to develop a volunteer member group to provide feedback on patient communications. Likely that this will not be ready until 2022. It is possible that Governors could be involved in encouraging members to take part in this, and/or take part ourselves. More to come on this in due course.

A suggestion from public Governor Peter Mc relates to newly inducted Governors, and the help they receive on IT and Data management. We feel that new Governors could be better assisted at induction with regard to helpful guidance on how to deal with and locate the various documents and information which is shared from RUH. This may be achieved via the induction programme with more input from LG or DLG. Ideas on this subject to be worked up, and Governor suggestions are welcome.

The above is intended to be for discussion and any comments/suggestions are welcome.

Gill Little

February 2022