

Meeting Title	Board of Directors		
Date	9 July 2020	Agenda item	Bo.7.20.7

Report from the Chairman

Presented by	Dr Maxwell Mclean, Chairman		
Author	Jacqui Maurice, Head of Corporate Governance		
Lead Director	Dr Maxwell Mclean, Chairman		
Purpose of the paper	The report provides an update on activity and engagement involving the Council of Governors since the previous report provided to the Board in May 2020.		
Key control	N/A		
Action required	To note		
Previously discussed at/informed by			
Previously approved at:	Committee/Group	Date	

Situation

Council of Governors meeting

I would like to make the Board aware that I have reinstated the Open Council of Governors meeting scheduled for Thursday 16 July 2020. The meeting will take place from 3.30pm to 5.30pm however, in light of the Government restrictions on groups of people meeting as a result of the pandemic and the physical distancing measures that remain in place; the meeting of the Council of Governors will be held as a virtual meeting. The agenda and the papers will be published online in advance of the meeting with the opportunity presented for the public to submit any questions regarding the business of the Council prior to the meeting being held. A short summary report on the key outcomes from the meeting will be published on the website following the meeting. The corporate Governance team is investigating the option of live streaming Council of Governors meetings as, thinking ahead, this might be the preferred option for how meetings are delivered, given the current restrictions on movements. I will keep the Board apprised of developments.

Non-Executive Director Recruitment

The Governors Nominations and Remuneration Committee (NRC) has continued to meet as per its annual meeting schedule (through video conferencing). As you are aware a search is underway, led by the NRC and using the services of a recruitment agency, for a new Non-Executive Director to fill our vacancy on the Board. We have agreed on a longlist of eight candidates for further enquiries. A short progress report regarding the search will be presented to the Council at its meeting in July. Final interviews and decision are expected on 8th September 2020.

Key Communications maintained with Governors during the Covid-19 pandemic

As I previously reported, governors continue to be in receipt of daily updates regarding the Trust's Covid-19 position through a bespoke situation update e-mail. Other key communications continue to be shared with Governors as a matter of course so they continue to remain in touch with all developments at our Trust. As a reminder, governors have access to Let's Talk (staff newsletter), the daily Covid-19 global emails to staff which include links to the CEO podcasts and videos.

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Governors Virtual Workshop

NHS Providers offer a wide range of support to Foundation Trust Governors. During July 2020 they are holding a series of virtual events to provide governors with a national perspective on:

- topical issues for governors,
- an update from the NHS Providers Governors support team on the direct impact of COVID-19 on governor activities and
- The opportunity for governors to share experiences and engage directly with colleagues from the NHS Providers team.

I am pleased to let you know that BTHFT is well represented, through Dr Kavitha Nadesalingam, Ms Pauline Garnett and, Mr Dermot Bolton who will each attend one of the four events scheduled.

My quarterly meeting with Governors

I am pleased to let you know that my next quarterly session with Governors is scheduled for Tuesday 14 July 2020. This provides a general opportunity for an informal meeting to take place between myself and the Governors. I would welcome any comments from Board members as to matters for discussion.

Joint Session: Governors and Non-Executive Directors

I am also pleased to advise that the next joint closed session between the Non-Executive Directors and the Governors will take place on Thursday 16 July from 2.15pm to 3.15pm (prior to the Council of Governors meeting). Again this will be a virtual session.

Recommendation

The Board of Directors is asked to note the report.