

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Council of Governors</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>21 January 2021</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>CGo.1.21.5</b>

## Chairman's Report

<b>Presented by</b>	Dr Maxwell Mclean, Chairman		
<b>Author</b>	Jacqui Maurice, Head of Corporate Governance		
<b>Governance responsibility</b>	Dr Maxwell Mclean, Chairman		
<b>Purpose of the paper</b>	To provide an update to the Council of Governors on key items to note since the previous report provided in October 2020.		
<b>Action required</b>	To note		
<b>Previously discussed at/informed by</b>	N/A		
<b>Previously approved at:</b>	<b>Committee/Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	

Situation	
<p><b>1. Public Meetings of the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors</b></p> <p>Due to the continuing restrictions in place with regard to the Covid 19 Pandemic, our public meetings will continue to take place virtually at least until the end of April 2021. As with our previous Board and Council of Governors meetings, we are continuing to take steps for our open meetings to be accessible to the public. This meeting of the council of governors will be recorded and uploaded to the Trust's YouTube Channel on 22 January 2021. The annotated agenda providing a time stamp for each item will be published along with the link to the recording on the Trust website <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Our open Board meeting is scheduled to take place on 20 January 2021. A recording of the meeting will also be uploaded to the Trust's YouTube channel on 21 January 2021. As with the Council of Governors meeting; the annotated agenda providing a time stamp for each item will be published along with the link to the recording on the Trust website. You will find the Board agenda and papers <a href="#">here</a> along with information about the members of our Board of Directors.</p> <p><b>2. Governor Elections</b></p> <p>Elections for three seats on the Council of Governors will open on Monday 15 February with the publication of the formal notice of election. Once the notice is published more information, along with the elections timetable, will be circulated to our membership, Governors and circulated to the press. The Council is asked to note that our Trust will be seeking to fill three vacancies. That is one each in the following three public membership constituencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shipley</li> <li>- Bradford South</li> <li>- Bradford West</li> </ul>	

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### 3. Governor Advisory Committee Elections

As a foundation trust that is a member of NHS Providers, our Council of Governors is entitled to vote in the forthcoming election of eight governors to the Governor Advisory Committee. Nominations have now closed and the election is now underway. To support this process, the candidate profiles have been circulated to all governors along with a scoring sheet for each of you to complete. Please would you ensure that your completed list is returned to [Sheridan.osbourne@bthft.nhs.uk](mailto:Sheridan.osbourne@bthft.nhs.uk) by close of Monday 1 March 2021.

### 4. Governor FOCUS

All Governors are in receipt of the latest issue of Governor FOCUS published by NHS Providers which is also available [here](#).

There are a few key items from the recent December newsletter I would like to draw governors' attention to.

Virtual Governor Workshops - Further to the sessions delivered in July 2020 which a number of our governors attended, additional workshops have been scheduled throughout January 2021 up to 1 February 2021. We have been advised by NHS Providers that there is now no limit on the number of governors attending sessions from each Trust. If you wish to join the session scheduled for February then please contact the Corporate Governance Team who will provide support for your booking.

Governwell training - Governors are encouraged to take a look at the latest [programme](#). All sessions are currently being delivered virtually. If there are any sessions that you would like to attend please would you confirm with the corporate governance team.

### 5. Key Communications

All governors continue to be in receipt of daily updates regarding the Trust's Covid 19 position. I have ensured that other key communications continue to be shared as a matter of course so that you continue to remain in touch with all developments at our trust. As a reminder, governors continue to have access to Let's Talk (staff newsletter), the daily Covid-19 global emails to staff (which also include links to the chief executive's podcasts and videos). I do hope that you continue to find this of value.

On 23 December governors were in receipt of the Chair's Winter Bulletin. As a reminder the key items shared covered:

- Decisions and items of note discussed at the 15 October Council of Governors meeting
- Elections to the Council
- Introduction to the recently appointed Assistant Director of Governance / Board Secretary, Laura Parsons
- New Governance arrangements: changes to the meeting schedule for the Board and Regulation & Assurance Committee
- The recently published newsletters from 'Act as One' and the Diabetes arm of Act as One

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- The document published by NHS England to support the consultation on Integrated Care that concluded on 8 January 2021
- The Green Plan Implementation Group established by the Director of Strategy and Integration and confirmation that Ms Wendy McQuillan, public Governor will be joining the group
- Confirmation of the appointment of Dr Ray Smith, Chief Medical Officer from 1 January 2021
- Confirmation of the appointment of Mr Paul Rice, Chief Digital and Information Officer also from 1 January 2021
- Introduction to the new Executive member of the Board; Mr Mark Holloway, Director of Estates and Facilities
- Provision of an executive briefing from Sajid Azeb, Chief Operating Officer, on the Trust's performance with regard to our national performance measures (the emergency care standard, referral to treatment targets and our cancer targets).

Sajid also shared his reflections on his first few months in his new role as Chief Operating Officer and I thought it would be useful to share this snapshot from his report here.

*"I started as Chief Operating Officer at BTHFT on the 12th October 2020, during what is undoubtedly one of the most challenging times for the NHS, our people and the communities we serve.*

*The COVID pandemic is relentless and all-encompassing the response to which has quite rightly been described as a 'marathon and not a sprint'. Our workforce is our most important asset and they have been nothing but exemplary in the way they have cared for our patients.*

*Our response and the recovery from the aftermath of this pandemic cannot be within individual organisational silos but requires us to come together as health and care organisations along with the wider community that we serve. As leaders we need to create the right environment to allow our clinical teams to feel supported and be in a position to deliver the best care to our patients. This is critical if we are to deliver against our vision "To be an outstanding provider of healthcare, research and education, and a great place to work."*

*Although Bradford has its challenges I have been particularly impressed by what I have seen within BTHFT to date.*

*Strengths:*

- *Clinical engagement*
- *Relationship and maturity across health and care system*
- *Performance position prior to COVID-19 impact*
- *Innovations – EPR, Command centre*

*Challenges:*

- *Demographics challenges and the impact on health with the socio-economic profile of Bradford*
- *COVID impact on performance and operational delivery*

*Our main focus over the next period is to ensure the delivery of safe care whilst meeting the challenges of the second wave of COVID combined with the normal winter operational pressures that we will experience."*

My thanks to Sajid Azeb, Chief Operating Officer, for the exceptional report he prepared for the Council of Governors.

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Following the Governors pre-meeting in October 2020, the Governors shared a question with the Director of HR regarding the Kinnair Review. The review was discussed at the Board in September 2020 where we heard from Mel Pickup, Chief Executive, about the emerging focus of West Yorkshire and Harrogate Partnership on the increasing evidence emerging around the impact of Covid-19 on our Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities across West Yorkshire and that the partnership had commissioned Professor Dame Donna Kinnair, CEO and General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing to review the approach to tackle health inequalities for BAME communities and colleagues.

Following the Governors pre-meeting in October they advised that they were keen to understand;

*'How has the Trust inputted to the review and how has the Trust reacted to its findings?'*

The following response has been provided by Pat Campbell, Director of HR.

*"BTHFT have been actively involved in the West Yorkshire and Harrogate review into inequalities affecting BAME staff and communities.*

*There were four main areas of focus for the review; Workforce, Leadership, Population Planning, and Mental Health. The review made a number of recommendations in relation to each of these themes. Colleagues from HR and OD were nominated to be involved in the 'action planning' process of the review recommendations and had the opportunity of attending a range of workshops, where they were involved in influencing and developing the actions as part of the wider action plan developed in response to the review. This was presented to the West Yorkshire & Harrogate Partnership Board in December 2020.*

*The Trust's Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, also member of the West Yorkshire & Harrogate Regional BAME Network, was asked to provide a personal testimony at one of the review panel meetings, this covered a personal reflection which also highlighted the Trust's response to some of the ongoing activity on equality & diversity and our response to COVID-19 for staff, patients and communities.*

*We are actively ensuring that our equality, diversity and inclusion priorities are aligned to the review recommendations. The Trust is in the process of developing a strategic wide Equality and Diversity Council (EDC) which will be chaired by the CEO, Mel Pickup. Membership for EDC and terms of reference are currently being developed ensuring the role and remit of EDC is clear with clearly defined priorities. A member of the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Care Partnership has been invited to join EDC along with other key representatives working on the wider health inequalities agenda across the Bradford & Craven and District.*

*The Trust is in the process of reviewing and refreshing the Trust's strategic equality and diversity objectives in partnership with a range of stakeholders. The Race Review recommendations will be aligned to this ensuring the Trust is actively progressing the recommendations at Trust level."*

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## 6. My quarterly meeting with Governors

My last session took place on 12 January 2021. There were a number of key questions raised regarding Covid 19. Governors are keen to hear about the following:

- *Are any staff declining to have the vaccine, if so how many staff are declining and, are there any patterns emerging amongst this group of staff?*
- *Does our Trust intend to use other vaccines now that they are available?*
- *Are staff reporting any side effects from the vaccine?*
- *Are we confident that we have a sufficient oxygen supply to manage our Covid patients?*

These questions will be addressed under 'matters arising' at the 21 January Council of Governors meeting.

My next quarterly meeting with governors will take place virtually on Tuesday 13 April 2021.

## 7. Joint Session: Governors and Non-Executive Directors

Our next session will take place on Thursday 21 January from 2.15pm to 3.15pm (prior to the council of governors meeting). Again this will be a virtual session.

### Recommendation/s

The Council of Governors is asked to note the report.