

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>9 March 2023</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Bo.3.23.6</b>

## Report from the Chairman

<b>Presented by</b>	Dr Maxwell Mclean, Chairman		
<b>Author</b>	Jacqui Maurice, Head of Corporate Governance		
<b>Lead Director</b>	Dr Maxwell Mclean, Chairman		
<b>Purpose of the paper</b>	The report provides an update on activity and engagement involving the Council of Governors and Membership since the previous report provided to the Board in January 2023.		
<b>Key control</b>	N/A		
<b>Action required</b>	For Information		
<b>Previously discussed at/informed by</b>	N/A		
<b>Previously approved at:</b>	<b>Committee/Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	

### Situation

#### 1. Council of Governors meeting held 26 January 2023

Our last meeting of the Council of Governors took place on Thursday 26 January and was held in public at Carlisle Business Centre, Bradford. The agenda and papers are available [here](#). Key items considered by the Council were

- A presentation from Helen Rushworth, Lead Officer at Healthwatch Bradford on the Bradford District & Craven Citizens' Forum.
- A summary of the discussion that took place at the Governor and NED pre-meeting held earlier in the day.
- Matters raised with Governors by members, patients and the public.
- Chairman's Report to the Council
- CEO Report covering key activity since the last report covering our Patients, People, Partners and Place.
- Priorities and Operational Planning Guidance for 2023/24 recently published by NHS England
- Annual Council of Governors Effectiveness / Skills and Knowledge Audit review of documentation ahead of the gathering of information.

At the closed meeting two items were considered:

- The recommendation from the Audit Committee Chair to approve a change in the contract with Deloitte LLP (External Auditor). The change related to the issue of a new contract for a period of 2 plus 1 years to ensure the continuity of supply of external audit services. In line with the Council's statutory duty to approve the appointment of the External Auditor, the Council approved the recommendation.
- The Council had also sought nominations from Governors for membership of the Governors Nominations and Remuneration Committee. David Wilmshurst, Public Governor was reappointed to the committee until 31 March 2025.

#### 2. Joint Session: Governors and Non-Executive Directors held 26 January October 2022

At the last joint session the areas considered covered those identified below. These areas were followed up with further discussions held at the Council meeting. The areas covered were:

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>9 March 2023</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Bo.3.23.6</b>

- The wider benefits of the development of the new day-case unit at St Luke's Hospital (SLH), including how the Trust would identify and manage patients who attend for day case surgery who may need to be admitted to hospital.
- Staffing gaps and, retaining qualified nursing staff.
- The number of student staff members undertaking their training in Bradford who then go on to work for the Trust.

Details on the discussions are included within the minutes from the January meeting which will be approved by the Council in April.

Our next joint session between the NEDs and the Governors is scheduled for Thursday 27 April from 2.15pm to 3.15pm (prior to the Council of Governors meeting). The outcomes from this session will be reported on and discussed later that afternoon at the Council meeting.

### 3. Governor Resignation

It is with regret that Dr John Bolton, Staff Governor Medical and Dental has, reluctantly, tendered his resignation due to the pressures of combining his many different roles.



I have thanked John for his contributions made since he took on the role in May 2022. John is very well respected amongst his former Governor colleagues and they too have expressed their sadness at his departure but also wish him well in the future. The Corporate Governance team is currently exploring options available (within the bounds of the Constitution) to fill the role and the Board will be updated in due course.

### 4. 'Outstanding Maternity Services' OMS Maternity Session on 24 January 2023

I would like to thank those NEDs who were able to join the session scheduled with our Governors on 24 January. On behalf of the Governors and the NEDs I would also like to express our thanks to the Chief Nurse, Director of Midwifery and, the Clinical Risk and Governance Lead Midwife for the insightful presentation which helped to facilitate a good and detailed discussion. In summary the session covered:

- Risk reporting in Maternity
- Serious Incidents and Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch Reports
- Maternity Improvement Plan highlights
- Still Birth Rates

The session was held face to face and as such not recorded however, the presentation is available via

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<b>Date</b>	<b>9 March 2023</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Bo.3.23.6</b>

the NED and now Governor reading rooms on the Team Engine portal.

## 5. Bespoke in-house development session for our NEDs and Governors



Unfortunately our session planned for 2 February was stood down. We are seeking to reschedule this session and as such Non Executive Directors will hear from Sheridan shortly on proposed dates and times. As a reminder we are seeking to deliver this session face to face and the agenda will include:

- Governance and the role of the NED/Governor (the role of the NED, the role of the Governor and, assurance vs reassurance)
- Relationship building and group discussion (what works well at BTHFT and, what could be better)
- Our next steps

This is a good opportunity to remind ourselves of our respective roles and also to have the opportunity to review what we have in place. This is an important session and I would strongly encourage as many NEDs as possible to attend alongside our Governors.

## 6. Joint Governor and Non-Executive Director Induction Programme - Site Visits

Thank you to those of our NEDs who joined Governors for site visits in what has been an excellent re-addition to the Governor/NED induction programme. I myself attended a number of these sessions designed to support in the effective delivery of roles. Sessions delivered throughout February have included site visits and engagement with key staff in the following areas:

- Education Services (including a visit to the Simulation Centre)
- BRI Estate (including a clinical perspective)
- SLH Estate (including a clinical perspective)
- Institute of Health Research (including a visit to the Patient Recruitment Centre)

The Corporate Governance team is currently seeking feedback from all participants (staff leads, governors and NEDs) however, I would like to put on record my thanks to those of our staff who provided and delivered a programme that was rich in content and provided both governors and NEDs with superb insights into their respective areas of expertise. These sessions have added to our understanding of our role as an acute services provider, a teaching hospital and, the significant benefits being brought by the significant growth in applied research.

## 7. Second Quality Account Improvement Priorities session

My thanks to Judith Connor, Associate Director of Quality for leading the discussion with Governors on the improvement priorities proposed for 2023/24 at this second session on the Quality Account improvement priorities. The five proposed priorities for 2023/24 discussed with Council members were;

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>9 March 2023</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Bo.3.23.6</b>

- Improving the management of deteriorating patients
- Improving patient experience
- Continued reduction in Stillbirths
- Advancing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Implementation of Patient Safety Response Framework

The final list will be confirmed shortly with the Chief Medical Officer.

As a reminder, the Trust is required to publish a Quality Account annually, by 30 June. It is a report about the quality of services offered by an NHS healthcare provider. Quality Accounts are an important way for local NHS services to report on quality and show improvements in the services they deliver to local communities and stakeholders. The quality of the services is measured by looking at patient safety, the effectiveness of treatments patients receive, and patient feedback about the care provided. The Trust's latest Quality Account is available [here](#).

## 8. Spring 2023 news e-bulletin for Governors / Communications with members

The Spring news e-bulletin for Governors will be circulated at the end of March/early April. This will be shared with the Board members for information.

Members have continued to be in receipt of 'Mel's monthly round-ups' featuring news from across the trust. The latest edition circulated is available [here](#).



## 9. Key Trust Communications

Key communications continue to be shared with Governors so that Council members remain in touch with developments at our Trust. Governors also continue to have access to Let's Talk (staff newsletter) and global emails containing a range of updates to staff.

### Recommendation

The Board of Directors is asked to note this report.