

Meeting Title	Council of Governors		
Date	6 February 2024	Agenda item	CGo.2.24.11

Governors Annual Evaluation and Skills and Knowledge Audit

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Governance responsibility	Council of Governors		
Purpose of the paper	To confirm arrangements relating to the evaluation of the Council of Governors		
Action required	For discussion		
Previously discussed at/informed by	N/A		
Previously approved at:	Committee/Group	Date	
	N/A		

Situation and Background

At this point in the year, the Council is asked to agree the process for its annual evaluation of effectiveness and a skills and knowledge audit. Governors will be aware that a development support for the Council of Governors has recently been commissioned from ANHH consulting. This includes a survey to seek feedback and views from governors, two governor development sessions (which were held on 23 & 30 January 2024), and the production of a governor handbook.

This work has included the following areas:

- Reminding Governors of their statutory powers and responsibilities under the National Health Service Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Providing Governance '101' training to help Governors understand key principles such as reassurance versus assurance, decision shaping (forming, making, taking), strategic and operational risk, and the DNA of a good and effective meeting.
- Revisiting BTHFT's Constitution to confirm where the Council sits in the governance architecture and how reporting, delegation, and assurance operate and are managed.
- The approach to building a relationship between the Council and the new Chair.
- Rules of engagement between Governors and the Chair, and between the Lead Governor, Vice Chair, and the Chair.
- The role of the Lead Governor and the Vice Chair, and expectations of those roles.
- Introducing Governors to tools and techniques to enable them to discharge their duties, e.g., how to hold NEDs to account and engage with their constituencies.

The Council will receive a write up from the sessions with ANHH including recommendations to improve effectiveness. Therefore, it is proposed not to undertake a separate internal evaluation of effectiveness this year, as this would duplicate the work already undertaken.

Recommendation/s

The Council is asked to consider and agree the proposal not to undertake an internal effectiveness review and skills and knowledge audit in 2024, due to the separate development activity which is already in progress.