

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS IN PUBLIC
3 FEBRUARY 2022

A meeting of the Council of Governors in public will take place at 10am on 3 February 2022 by MS Teams – details at www.nnuh.nhs.uk

Governors are reminded that copies of the Trust Board papers including minutes, integrated performance report and committee reports can be accessed on the Trust website at: <http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/?s=board+papers&searchSiteSubmit=Search+site>

AGENDA

	Item	Lead	Purpose	Page
1	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	Chair	Information	
2	Minutes of the meeting held in public on 07.10.21	Chair	Approval	2
3	Update on actions and matters arising	Chair	Discussion	Verbal
4	Chairman's Introduction	Chair	Information	Verbal
5	Chief Executive's Report - <i>inc update on operational position and feedback from Trust Board (02.02.22)</i>	CEO	Information	Verbal
6	Personalised Outpatient Programme - <i>Chris Cobb (COO) scheduled to attend</i>	CC	Discussion	Verbal
7	Membership Report	JB	Information	7
8	Draft Green Plan - <i>Simon Hackwell (Director of Strategy) to attend</i>	SDH	Discussion	Presentation
9	Finance Report (M9)	RC	Information	13

Non-Executive Directors scheduled to attend:

- **Sandra Dinneen** – Chair of People and Culture Committee, member of Finance, Investments and Performance Committee; Audit Committee; and Nominations and Remuneration Committee; Senior Independent Director and Nominated NED for Freedom To Speak Up (FTSU).
- **Julian Foster** – Chair of Audit Committee and member of Finance, Investments and Performance Committee; Nominations and Remuneration Committee; and Charitable Funds Committee and Nominated NED (as chair of Audit Cmtee) for Emergency Preparedness; and Digital and Cyber Security.

Date and Time of next meeting in public: The next Council of Governors meeting in public will be at 10am on 21 April 2022 in the Roy Snelling Lecture Theatre, Bob Champion Research and Education Building [TBC]

Distribution: Council of Governors, Board of Directors and Trust website

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closely with the Trust's laboratory and scientific staff during the pandemic to revise practices and establish risk assessments for patients and staff across the organisation. Whilst the operational position is now returning towards business as usual it is necessary that we continue to be vigilant to maintain the safety of patients and staff.

Overall the year was very challenging our staff were engaged, recognising the importance of maintaining infection prevention and control. Professor Fontaine indicated that the combined efforts of staff in microbiology, virology and IP&C had kept patients safe and hospital acquired outbreaks had been minimal. Mr White thanked the Infection Prevention and Control Team on behalf of the Council and Board, for their tremendous efforts in keeping patients safe.

Professor Fontaine (as Director of Infection Prevention & Control) explained that we have implemented rigorous testing processes to protect staff and patients. Stringent rules on visiting for patients are also being maintained although exceptions are made for visiting patients at end of life or with learning disabilities.

21/040 **FREEDOM TO SPEAK UP**

The Council received a report from Ms Fran Dawson (Lead Freedom to Speak-Up Guardian).

Ms Dawson highlighted that a speak up culture is multifaceted and should be about providing staff with a route to seek help/support/advice/guidance and to ask questions, raise concerns and make suggestions, creating an environment where staff feel comfortable speaking up.

A key element of the speak up process is ensuring that staff are listened to and that there is clear evidence of learning and follow up. It is imperative for a safety culture to ensure that preventable events are stopped from happening. This promotes credibility and staff confidence in the FTSU system. The key themes of speaking up have been identified as behaviour/relationships, system or processes, and middle management. Examples were provided of actions taken following speak up concerns raised by staff.

The Council was updated with regard to the Freedom to Speak Up Index which provides a metric drawn from staff feedback through the annual NHS staff survey. In the last survey 61% of staff felt confident to raise a concern at work but there is further scope for improvement. We are aiming for every interaction to be seen as an opportunity and for everyone to adopt a sense of duty to raise concerns if they see something of concern.

Governors enquired about how speak-up concerns are linked with other areas such as Duty of Candour and incidents. Ms Dawson confirmed that there is close collaboration with incident reporting and patient facing teams to pick up areas of concern. This ensures that FTSU concerns are 'triangulated' with other sources of information and enable a rounded picture.

Ms Dawson explained that across the NHS, the environment for speaking up is changing. Key areas of focus are around developing role models and promoting case examples, demonstrating that it is safe to raise concerns and that there will be no retribution for doing so.

21/041 **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

The Council received for information a report from Mrs Bradfield outlining governor, member and public activities across many areas of the Trust. The report detailed Governors' briefings and activities since its last meeting in July.

Mrs Bradfield indicated that a briefing with Healthwatch is being arranged.

