

**REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD: PUBLIC**  
**25 MARCH 2021**

<b>Title</b>	People Participation Committee 16 December 2020 and 17 February 2021 – Chair’s Report
<b>Committee Chair</b>	Aamir Ahmad, Committee Chair
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**Purpose of the report**

To bring to the Board’s attention key issues and assurances discussed at the People Participation Committee meetings held on 16 December 2020 and 17 February 2021.

**Issues to be brought to Board’s attention**

**17 February 2021**

At its meeting on 17 February 2021 the Committee considered a range of items including reward and recognition project, digital people participation, Covid vaccination champions, Trust-wide working together priorities 2021 and Working Together Group’s themes. The Committee wished to draw the Board’s attention to its discussions on the following:

- **Reward and Recognition Project:** This project arose following people being paid late and a lack of structure to payments. The aim of the project is to make the process more streamlined and cost effective.
- **Digital People Participation:** The Committee received an update on the role of the new Digital Lead for People Participation and the establishment of a people participation digital community. The objectives of the group will be to establish digital needs, to co-create digital solutions and to disseminate solutions across the ELFT community. The work of this group fits within the overall digital strategy for the Trust.
- **Covid Vaccination Champions:** This project in Tower Hamlets aims to recruit ‘champions’ with lived experience to help reduce anxieties about having the vaccine and to help dispel some of the myths. The plan is to replicate the Trust-wide webinar with a focus on service users, patients and carers and people with lived experience will be on the Panel. Language barriers will be taken into account and part of the planning is about targeting people from particular communities. The Committee suggested various recommendations including assurance to people on the vaccination centre’s cleanliness, safety and environment to help reduce anxieties; a space where service users and carers can talk about their anxieties; the importance of highlighting the benefits as well as addressing concerns.
- **Trust-wide Working Together Priorities 2021:** The Committee approved the priorities, having reviewed them in detail at its previous meeting.
- **Working Together Group Themes:** Working Together Group leads presented updates on key themes including:
  - Staff engagement with co-production
  - Digital training and accessibility to equipment
  - Keeping connected and isolation during Covid
  - Lack of employment support
  - Improving inclusivity, e.g. deaf awareness training and workshops.

**16 December 2020**

At its meeting on 16 December 2020 the Committee considered a range of items including primary care, peer support worker update, draft Trust wide working together priorities 2021 and the Trust’s charitable fund. The Committee wished to draw the Board’s attention to its discussions on the following:

- **Primary Care:** The Committee received an overview and update on the establishment of the primary care directorate:
  - The initiative comes from a national level need to meet increased workloads in primary care which are due to the increase in practice hours and the large amount of retirements from the service not being met with the same level of recruitment.
  - Three new accredited personalised care roles have been established - health and wellbeing coaches, care co-ordinators and social prescribers - with a view to utilising experience in the local community and embedding the expertise of a large Trust, with the Trust becoming an accredited provider.
  - The national agenda is focusing on 'de-prescribing' in general practice, and instead offering advice on exercise, groups, clubs, etc. The initiative is also for joint decision-making on treatments to include patients, based around risk assessments.
  - The approach is enabling practice teams to work in a more multi-disciplinary way, utilising the wider network of ELFT teams for advice and support, improving work-life balance.
  - Work is ongoing with embedding networks and structures such as patient participation and Working Together Groups in the directorate.
  - In Tower Hamlets and Hackney there is a sub-contract with a national homeless peer advocacy service, Groundswell, which has been assisting the teams in engaging with homeless service users. This collaborative approach provides a clearer path to providing peer support than the Trust could do alone.
  
- **Peer Support Workers (PSWs) Update:** The Committee noted:
  - There is a focus on ensuring services have a clear understanding of the role of PSWs and of the recruitment and training requirements.
  - Work is taking place on capturing the impact of PSWs and realising the opportunity to build enthusiasm for the importance and value of these roles.
  - Although there is a natural range of individuals being recruited in terms of gender and ethnicity, it was recognised that there is a need to ensure specific community groups are reflected in the workforce.
  - Numbers are being scoped in each CHMT to ensure every area has their own PSWs in place.
  
- **Draft Trust Wide Working Priorities 2021:** The Committee reviewed the priorities for 2021 and noted:
  - The importance of encouraging and supporting local, more informal connection groups which help empower service users to help themselves collectively..
  - With regard to diversity, the Trust needs to challenge itself to demonstrate that its work on inequalities and engaging with people with lived experience is helping to improve lives, particularly in reaching harder to reach communities, and connect with, groups and communities. It was felt that priorities 7 & 1 above should be strongly connected.
  - As an anchor institution the Trust should demonstrate that we are taking action on offering employment and volunteering opportunities to our service users and the wider community.
  
- **Charitable Funds:** The Committee received an update on the development of a Trust-wide charity and was pleased to note that applications for funds must demonstrate that they will make a substantial difference to the lives of service users and members of our communities, and they work within the Trust-wide priorities list.

### Previous Minutes

The approved minutes of the meeting held on 16 September and 16 December 2020 are available on request by Board Directors from the Director of Corporate Governance.