

REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD: PUBLIC
23 July 2020

Title	People Participation Committee 17 June 2020 – Chair’s Report
Committee Chair	Aamir Ahmad, Committee Chair
Author	Cathy Lilley, Associate Director of Corporate Governance

Purpose of the report

To bring to the Board’s attention key issues and assurances discussed at the People Participation Committee (PPC) meeting held on 17 June 2020.

Issues to be brought to Board’s attention

At its meeting on 17 June 2020 the Committee welcomed the new Chair Mark Lam, who expressed his pride in the People Participation agenda and spoke about his background and how this has influenced his views.

The Committee considered a range of items including COVID-19, Race and Privilege and Black Lives Matter, Digital, Peer Support Update and Co-production Workstream update. The Committee wished to draw the Board’s attention to its discussions on the following:

COVID-19 and people’s experiences

People’s experiences of COVID-19 were shared in wide-ranging discussions:

- Most People Participation activities had been moved online with some organic developments, such as establishment of a creative writing group and a newsletter group
- Digital provision is much better, and very widely used, compared to before COVID-19, but digital inequalities have been exposed and need to be further addressed
- A blend of digital and non-digital options is needed to address both inequalities and also anxieties and the feeling of isolation, for example have ‘pods’ in local areas that people can come into to use Webex and outdoor walking meetings
- The starting point needs to be the whole person, including physical and mental health.

Race and Privilege and Black Lives Matter*

Committee members shared their views on what would be needed for the race and privilege programme to achieve its aims. Views were illustrated openly and generously by examples from personal experience. Key points discussed included:

- The current level of support in the UK for ‘Black Lives Matter’ is unprecedented
- ELFT is acknowledged as one of the best listening organisations, but all organisations have underlying issues with racism
- The importance of gaining a perspective and understanding on how people treat each other and why
- All people should be treated compassionately irrespective of skin colour or perceived ‘difference’
- Personal stories are ‘gold’; the discussion sessions should enable people to be open, honest and feel ‘safe’ with colleagues being kind, caring and respectful
- Racism can be unconscious or otherwise and has been built in through history
- Many people in the BAME communities heard from their parents that they should ‘put up and shut up’, but this party line has now been broken
- People including staff should be held to account for the beliefs that inform their habits.

* A presentation on race and privilege work is included as an agenda item at the Trust Board meeting in public on 23 July 2020

Peer Support Workers (PSWs) Update

- During the COVID 19 period the offer of period support has been expanded in Bedfordshire and Luton including flexible telephone support
- Full time Band 5 Peer Support Leads have been recruited in East London
- Specialties in peer support work are being considered including for people with learning disabilities, child and adolescent mental health services and for smoking cessation.

Previous Minutes

The approved minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2020 are available on request by Board Directors from the Associate Director of Corporate Governance.