

REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD: PUBLIC
3 December 2020

Title	Chair's Report
Author	Mark Lam

Purpose of the Report:

The report informs the Board of key points arising from the Council of Governors and Members discussions and the Chair's most significant activities

Summary of Key Issues:

To receive feedback on Governor discussion and key strategic points arising from Chair and Non-Executive Director activity.

Strategic priorities this paper supports (Please check box including brief statement)

Improved experience of care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Council of Governor identifies annually its strategic priorities which will assist the Trust to improve experience of care at critical points in the patient journey
Improved population health outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board discussions on how we can best achieve our population health ambition within a changing context will enable the organisation to be better prepared. Governor's focus on Member priorities emphasises improving population health outcomes
Improved staff experience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governors and NEDs have highlighted staff experience as a key priority for the Trust and provided areas of focus
Improved value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Working collaboratively with our health and care partners will secure better integrated and more accessible care, thereby increasing value

Committees / Meetings where this item has been considered:

Date	Committee / Meeting
14 September 2020	Council of Governors Meeting

Implications:

Equality Analysis	Positive impact on reducing health inequalities through system partnerships
Risk and Assurance	Ensuring that we respond effectively to member feedback will provide additional assurance, minimise risk and improve accountability
Service User / Carer / Staff	Focusing on the Council's strategic priorities will support improving service user and carer experience and staff engagement
Financial	Increasing the potential for creating value by involving and working with others to maximising benefits of investments.
Quality	Improving in response to the experiences of Members will help drive quality improvements further.

Glossary

Abbreviation	In full
NED(s)	Non-Executive Director(s)

1. Background/Introduction

- 1.1. This report updates the Board on the Council of Governors discussions so that these views inform Board decisions. It also provides information on the Chair's main activities and strategic outcomes of Non-Executive Director visits and Board discussions as part of the Board's commitment to public accountability.

2. Council of Governors

- 2.1. This has been a busy period for the Council of Governors, with significant changes to its composition, following a series of elections. I am pleased to welcome a number of new governors to the Council, who bring with them a wealth of background experiences, including new public and staff governors.
- 2.2. Following a tight race, the Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Caroline Ogunsola, currently one of the staff governors, as the new Lead Governor. I am delighted that Keith Williams has agreed to continue in the capacity of Deputy Lead Governor and anticipate a close working partnership between them.
- 2.3. The new Council met for the first time on 12 November 2020. It reviewed recent strategic developments and in particular Trust readiness in response to anticipated winter pressures and the COVID-19 pandemic. Governors provided valuable input in what was a highly energetic and committed review on how to engage local communities and provide the best care in difficult times.
- 2.4. We bid farewell to governors who are stepping down in this period: Zara Hosany, Neil Wilson, Sheila O'Connell, Julian Mockridge, Daniel Victorio, Mary Phillips, and Jummy Otaiku. Their contribution over the years has been considerable and they should leave the Trust proud of the impact they have made. I should like in particular to pay tribute to Zara Hosany, a long-standing governor who was also our last Lead Governor, for her tenacity, passion, and commitment to the role. Zara has been by my side throughout my first few months as Chair, providing crucial guidance and insight, always with honesty and a personal touch. We wish all departing governors the best for the future.

3. Chair and NED Activities

- 3.1. Regional healthcare matters continue to occupy a significant proportion of my time as Chair, especially the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) health system, which is in the process of re-affirming its purpose and re-designing its operations. I continue to promote the leadership role the Trust can play to reduce health inequalities.
- 3.2. The Non-Executive Directors and I have attended a number of 'virtual visits' to services, where we met key members of teams delivering critical services. We have had the pleasure of meeting many clinicians, support colleagues, and managers to thank them for their professionalism and excellent contributions during the toughest health crisis this country has ever experienced. In each of these visits, we also received feedback and fantastic suggestions on how to improve services, which we follow up on with the relevant executive leads.
- 3.3. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Jenny Kay, one of our longest serving Board members and our Senior Independent Director. Jenny's devotion to the Trust and unwavering commitment to improving healthcare is unparalleled and a model for others to follow. At a personal level, Jenny has been instrumental in advising me as the new Chair joining the organization. I shall miss her wise counsel and the Trust shall miss her challenges and guidance. We wish her the best in her future endeavours.

- 3.4. I am delighted to welcome Richard Carr and Professor Dame Donna Kinnair DBE as Non-Executive Directors on our Board following their recent appointment by the Council of Governors with effect from 1 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 respectively. These are two excellent appointments which will maintain the strength and diversity on our Board.

Richard has extensive experience working in the local authority sector having been CEO at four local authorities with his most recent position as Chief Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council. Since May 2017 until the end of November he was the Senior Responsible Officer for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System (ICS) of which ELFT is a partner.

Donna is currently the Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing. A nurse by training she has held a variety of senior clinical roles, including as a director of nursing, clinical director for emergency medicine, and commissioning director. She was one of the expert advisers to the 2001 Laming inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Donna was born in Hackney and worked for a significant portion of her career in East London.

4. **Action Being Requested**

- 4.1. The Board is asked to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the report for information.