

**REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD IN PUBLIC**  
**24 March 2022**

<b>Title</b>	Chair's Report
<b>Author</b>	Mark Lam, Trust Chair

**Purpose of the Report**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide feedback on Governor discussions so that these inform Board decisions</li> <li>To provide updates on the key strategic points arising from Chair and Non-Executive Director activity as part of the Board's commitment to public accountability</li> </ul>
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**Committees / Meetings where this item has been considered:**

10 March 2022	Council of Governors Meeting
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**Key Messages**

This report informs the Board of key points arising from the Council of Governors and members discussions and the Chair's and Non-Executive Directors' most significant activities.
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**Strategic priorities this paper supports**

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

**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.

## **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 (NED) visits and Board discussions as part of the Board's commitment to public accountability.

## **2. Council of Governors Update**

### **2.1 Joint Chair Recruitment**

At their meeting in December, the Council agreed to recruit a Joint Chair with North East London NHS Foundation Trust. Both Trusts see this as a natural progression to the collaborative work we have been doing together which has brought significant improvements to the lives of the people we serve. Vacancies have also simultaneously arisen for Chairs across the two Trusts following my recent appointment to North Middlesex University Hospital Trust and with Joe Fielder coming to the end of his term of office at NELFT.

In taking this decision, Governors explored the benefits of such an arrangement and were assured that:

- This will help to support the continued development of strong and vibrant relationships between the two Trusts, both of which provide services in London and the East of England
- It is about strengthening collaboration in order to improve services for patients.
- The appointment of a Joint Chair will raise the profile of mental health and community health services in both NHS regions where we operate (North East London and East of England)
- A similar opportunity would have been pursued with other Trusts in our localities, such as Luton and Bedfordshire, had it been available
- Both Trusts and their Boards and Council will remain separate, and
- Nothing in this collaboration will detract from ELFT's commitment to Luton and Bedfordshire

Governors agreed to form a Joint Nominations Committee consisting of the Governors of both the ELFT and NELFT Nominations and Conduct Committees, the two SIDs and both CEOs. This Committee is taking forward the recruitment process for the Joint Chair on behalf of both Councils.

### **2.2 VCOD**

Governors received an operational update by Chief People Officer Tanya Carter on the work undertaken in the Trust with all staff to address engagement issues that arose from the statutory requirement on vaccination as a condition of deployment (VCOD) and the subsequent consultation to revoke it.

The situation had caused distress amongst a number of staff, those affected by it as well as those who were required to implement the policy. Governors received assurance that the Trust is fully aware of these issues and is actively supporting staff.

Whilst acknowledging the strength of feeling amongst colleagues on all sides of this issue, the Trust reinforced to governors the importance of vaccination. Unvaccinated people are at a significantly higher risk of harm from contracting COVID-19. The Trust encourages everyone to get vaccinated, if they have not already done so, and continues

to listen and address any concerns.

### 2.3 Inequalities

As part of their regular review of strategic item, Governors heard from Richard Fradgley, Executive Director of Integrated Care, on the Trust's work to address inequality as a contributory factor to poor health outcomes, as well as the Trust's status as England's first Marmot Trust.

In breakout rooms, Governors were asked to consider key priorities in the coming year. After rich discussions, some of the key themes included to work closely with our partners, to use varied sources of intelligence to identify those groups who at times can struggle to access our services, and to address the threatening cost of living crisis.

Richard welcomed especially the feedback around some very practical steps that could be taken forwards. Governors asked for an update to be brought to a future meeting.

### 2.4 Governor Questions

Governors challenged and sought assurance on the Trust's complaints system as well as Newham's phlebotomy service.

## 3. Chair and NED Activities

3.1. Virtual visits made by the NEDs since the last Board meeting include:

- Fountains Court, Bedford
- Path to Recovery
- Newham CAMHS
- Leighton Road Surgery, Leighton Buzzard.

3.2. NEDs met with key members of teams delivering critical services including clinicians, support colleagues, and managers. They took the opportunity to thank them for their professionalism, commitment, enthusiasm and meaningful contributions during the toughest health crisis this country has ever experienced. In each of these visits, they also received feedback and helpful suggestions on how to improve services, which we follow up on with the relevant executive leads.

3.3. The NED visits will continue to be held virtually until further notice.

## 4. Action Being Requested

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