

3. Council of Governors update

3.1 The Trust's Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) took place on 13 November 2025 ahead of the Council of Governors meeting. Members of the public, Governors, and Board colleagues attended. The Trust presented its Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25.

CEO Lorraine Sunduza outlined efforts to maintain high-quality services despite financial pressures, while Alison Cottrell (Audit Chair) and Kevin Curnow (CFO) summarised the accounts and auditor's unqualified (positive) opinion. Although last year ended in overspend, Kevin confirmed that plans to achieve a balanced budget this year are on track.

3.2 Newham's Director of Nursing, Julie Glyn-Davies, and Lead Nurse Gavin Shields reported on work to move end-of-life care from wards into homes or hospices. Collaboration with partners including Newham Council and Marie Curie Care is enabling early identification and personalised care plans, ensuring choice and dignity in the final stages of life.

3.3 The Council of Governors met in public session on 13 November. Building on their strategic theme of shifting care from acute to community settings, Governors identified three priorities for safe transition: continuity of personalised care, ensuring adequate staffing, and strong multi-disciplinary working across health and social care.

- The Council said farewell and gave their thanks to outgoing Governor John Bennett, who encouraged colleagues to embrace change while maintaining a culture of trust and constructive challenge.
- Governors received updates on the Trust Strategy review and a report from the Significant Business and Strategy Committee on challenges and opportunities linked to the NHS 10-Year Plan.
- NHSE has launched a consultation on the new Advanced Foundation Trust framework. We will review the proposals carefully to understand any implications for governance and elections, ensuring that Governors are fully engaged throughout. We expect to provide clarity in the New Year. In the meantime, we note that some Governor terms ended on 31 October. All will be updated on any opportunities to stand for re-election.