

3. Council of Governors update

3.1. The Council of Governors ('the Council') met on 11 September 2025 in both private and public session.

3.2. I was honoured to remember long-standing Governor and Newham Champion, Cllr Neil Wilson, who sadly passed away unexpectedly and whose funeral was held on the same day as the Council meeting. In his long public service, Neil made a real difference to the people of Newham, and to those who use our services in the Borough. He will be missed by many.

3.3. CEO Lorraine Sunduza took the opportunity to outline the NHS Oversight Framework segmentation rankings that had been published two days previously. She advised that the new league tables would be discussed at the September meeting of the Board of Directors and there would be an opportunity for further review and discussion at a future Council meeting.

3.4. Executive Director of Integrated Care and Deputy CEO, Richard Fradley, updated the Council on the achievements of our staff and service users after ten years working in Bedfordshire and Luton (B&L), stressing that ELFT is very much a B&L provider with deep roots in local services and local communities. Feedback from B&L Governors emphasised the improvements they themselves have noticed over the past ten years.

3.5. The meeting's strategic priority theme was "supporting independence in older adults" and we heard two excellent presentations from community health services in Bedford and in East London about improving discharge into community health from acute services. The data presented demonstrated that both projects significantly reduced the time between patients being assessed as medically fit and discharge into their supported home environment, reducing the risk of deconditioning. I was particularly pleased to note that both projects succeeded as a result of close working with system partners.

3.6. In their breakout rooms, Governors discussed the question: "What else should the Trust focus on to support independence in older adults?" Discussion themes included: listening to the wishes of and communicating well with service users; the importance of carers and their views; and seamless collaboration with system partners/multi-disciplinary teams. The potential role of the ELFT Charity was highlighted, in supporting activities that can help older adults to retain independence.

3.7. In their regular Membership Engagement Plan update, Governors received a progress report on the numerous engagement events that have taken place. In addition, there was an initial outline shared of how our approach may be refocused on *community* engagement, rather than the narrower focus of *membership* engagement, in line with the NHS 10 Year Plan.

3.8. In private session:

- The Council received the summary of the Nomination and Conduct Committee's discussion regarding the annual performance review of the Non-Executive Directors (NEDs), noting that all NEDs continue to demonstrate their independence and meet the requirements of the Fit and Proper Persons Test. Governors thanked the NEDs for their

valuable work and ongoing contributions, recognising the positive impact they have on the overall leadership of the Trust.

- Mindful of the need to provide stability on the Board and continuity in challenging and turbulent times for the NHS, the Council approved the reappointment of Richard Carr from 1 November 2026 to 31 October 2027, and Prof Dame Donna Kinnair and Deborah Wheeler from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027.
- Approved the appointment as of 1 November 2025 to the end of their respective terms of Alison Cottrell as Vice-Chair for Bedfordshire and Luton and Deborah Wheeler as Vice-Chair for London.

3.9. Governors also noted the Board's decision to extend the appointment of Richard Carr as Senior Independent Director in line with his third and final term of office.