

Board of Governors

Statement on *Quality Report* by Care Quality Commission (CQC), February 2015

The role of the Board of Governors is to hold the non-executive directors to account for the performance of the Board of Directors, which runs the Trust; and to represent the interests of service users, family carers, staff and the public as a whole. The majority of governors are voluntary, unpaid and elected by Service User, Carer, Staff and Public Members of the Trust.

Governors regret that there are many issues in the CQC report that governors have previously raised with the Trust on behalf of service users, carers and staff. Governors in their role of holding the Board to account have been actively seeking progress on addressing these issues. This is why governors have worked with the Chair, Gary Page, who they appointed in 2013, to ensure that the Trust is now under new management. The Chief Executive, Michael Scott, started in May 2014, and he now has a team of experienced executive directors, almost all of whom are recent appointments. The governors have also brought in three new non-executive directors to ensure continued independent and robust challenge at Board level.

During the summer of 2014, the boards of governors and directors commissioned an independent company to evaluate the performance of the Board of Directors. A Co-Founder and Director of Foresight, the company which carried out the independent board evaluation, told governors, in response to a question, that 'from what she saw when Foresight did the Evaluation and where she sees the Board is now, she has a reasonably high degree of confidence in the current Board and leadership team's ability to take the improvements forward. She said that this Board is capable of making the changes'. Governors are relying on this new Board of Directors to deliver the improvements expected not only by CQC but by service users, carers and the public.

While governors very much regret many of the findings of CQC's report, they welcome the fact that it spells out our shared aspiration that a mental health trust has to meet the quality standards already required of physical health services. For many years mental health services have been funded much less favourably. This report by CQC demonstrates that the Trust must provide higher quality services for service users and carers, and to do so this means that it should receive parity of funding with physical health services. Governors look forward to seeing significant improvement in the quality of the Trust's services.

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