

Governors' Bulletin



July 2018

As Governors at Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT), we provide a link between local people and the Trust's Board of Directors.

The Council of Governors met on Thursday, 12 July 2018 in Diss. Governors are not paid and have no operational remit but part of our role is to hold the Board of Directors to account and we do this through asking questions, seeking information and probing. We also bring service issues to the attention of the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors as a result of our many contacts with users, carers and partner organisations. Below are the highlights from the meeting.

Expansion of Psychiatric Liaison Service at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital

Governors were pleased to note that the psychiatric liaison service at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital has increased its staff from 13 to 29. Questions have been asked about any adverse risks to the current staff numbers at the psychiatric liaison service at other acute hospitals. We have been told that this additional funding does not have any implications for psychiatric services elsewhere.

Visit to East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT)

Governors, carers and users have visited the East London NHS Foundation Trust to learn how they go about their respective roles in an outstanding rated trust. Governors noted many similarities but also some additional good practice, particularly their approach to actively seeking feedback on the impact of their services. Interestingly, the ELFT does not have separate Governor constituencies for users and carers. A Task and Finish Panel, set up to review our own Governor role and practice, will be reporting back to the Council of Governors in October.

Recruitment of Non-Executive Directors (NEDs)

Governors have approved the reappointment of Tim Stevens and Ian Brookman to a second three year term. The resignation of one NED, Marian Saunders and the standing down of another, Jill Robinson at the end of her term means that there will be two vacancies to fill. Governors on the Nominations Committee are keen that applications come from people with mental health experience or knowledge and understanding of mental health challenges in a professional or volunteer role. This aspect is important to Governors so that there is a good balance of skills on the Board of Directors.

The mental health needs of homeless people and rough sleepers

Governors recently wrote to MPs in the Trust's area, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Councils and Government to highlight the often unmet mental health needs of people who are homeless and rough sleepers. In general, Governors were pleased to hear of the many recent initiatives to tackle the problem. However, there remains the need for more effective coordination and for our own Trust to ensure that NSFT staff work in collaboration with partners. Governors have asked that the Board of Directors, through the Executive Management Team, assures itself and Governors that NSFT plays an effective role in addressing the mental health needs of this often neglected group of people.

Governor Elections

Elections are held every year as Governor's three year terms come to an end. Governors come from all walks of life, so please consider standing for election.

The notice of election for vacant Governor seats will be published on 16 October 2018 with a deadline for nominations set at 13 November 2018. Voting packs will be dispatched on 5 December and voting can be undertaken on line as well as postal.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

NSFT PALS provides confidential advice, information and support, helping you to answer any questions you have about our services or about any health matters.



If you would like this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or a different language, please contact PALS and we will do our best to help.

Email: PALS@nsft.nhs.uk
or call PALS Freephone: 0800 279 7257

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust values and celebrates the diversity of all the communities we serve. We are fully committed to ensuring that all people have equality of opportunity to access our service, irrespective of their age, gender, ethnicity, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership or social and economic status.



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