

**Meeting Assurance Report
to the Council of Governors' 19 March 2024**

Name of Committee / Group	Governors' Forum
Date of Meeting	15 February 2024
Chair	Steve Jones, Lead Governor
Lead Officer	Jane Pellegrina, Membership Manager
Meeting Administrator	Jane Pellegrina

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide in summary an update on the key discussions and outcomes of the above meeting.

Agenda items covered at the meeting

The agenda included the following items:

- Discussion with Annette Laban and Shiella Wright
- Council of Governors' Matters:
 - Review of previous meeting and draft agenda for upcoming meeting
- Governors' Forum Matters:
 - Review of previous meeting
 - Review of responses to questionnaire re future meetings
 - Update from Membership Engagement Task and Finish Group
 - Reflections on Governors' Development Session – Effective Challenge
 - Governor representation on Trust Committees and workstreams
 - Governors' presentation and visits
 - Governors' issues and updates

Matters to highlight

Specific areas to highlight are as follows:

- Discussions with Chair and NED included:
 - Staffing levels in all areas and recruitment challenges.
 - Recruitment of overseas nurses
 - Staff exit interviews
 - Recruitment processes were continually under review and improvements were being introduced.
 - Reliance on agency staff was reducing.
 - Aggressive and violent behaviour towards staff from patients, Shiella said people are entitled to feel physically and emotionally safe at work and she now felt more reassured by actions that were being taken by the Trust to address.
 - Update on Freedom to Speak Up matters
- CoG Matters:
 - During discussion of the draft CoG Agenda Annette said that following feedback about the updates from Committee Chairs, this item would be presented differently at the next

meeting and she proposed this be assessed after the meeting, if it was still not right Annette said she would get a small working group together with two Governors and two NEDs to review.

- Proposed draft Agenda for CoG meeting 19 March 2024 was agreed
- Governors' Forum Matters
 - Outcome of questionnaire on future Governors' Forum meetings Steve Jones thanked governors for completing the questionnaire, there had been a good response with 26 questionnaires distributed and 22 responses received.
 - Reflections on Effective Challenge Development Day this had been a well-attended session with some good learning points.
 - Governor representation on Trust Committees, a schedule of Governors' involvement was reviewed and Governors were encouraged to express interest in any of the vacancies. Following the recent elections it was noted that Steve Bell and Felister Heeley had been elected to represent Governors on the Organ Donation and Transplant Committee and Steve Barks and Michelle Cook had been elected to represent Governors on the Patient Engagement and Experience Executive Committee. It was noted that at future Forum meetings Governors who had been selected to represent Governors at various Committees and Groups to provide updates from the meetings they were participating in.
 - Proposals for future presentations and visits, these suggestions were noted:
 - Presentation on the Trust's decarbonisation plans and the work of the Trusts' Sustainability Committee - proposed by Andre Hartley
 - Presentation/visit to Learning and Development – Irene Mabbot asked to open a discussion with the Department about this proposal
 - Presentation from the Staff Network Groups – proposed by Joe Saverimoutou
 - Presentation on Health Inequalities – proposed by Steve Barks
 - Introductory presentation from the new Chief Finance Officer – outside the regular quarterly briefings – proposed by Paulette Afflick-Anderson
 - Visit to Charles Clifford Dental Hospital – Proposed by Steve Bell
 - Visit to Estates Department RHH and NGH

New significant issues / concerns escalated including proposals on the next steps to address this

There were no significant issues or concerns.

Implications

Aim of the STHFT Corporate Strategy		✓ Tick as appropriate
1	Deliver the Best Clinical Outcomes	✓
2	Provide Patient Centred Services	✓
3	Employ Caring and Cared for Staff	✓
4	Spend Public Money Wisely	✓
5	Create a Sustainable Organisation	✓
6	Deliver Excellent Research, Education and Innovation	✓

Recommendations

The Council of Governors is asked to **NOTE** the update provided and respond to any specific points raised within the report.