

# Council of Governors

## SUMMARY REPORT

**Meeting Date:** 22 February 2024  
**Agenda Item:** 11

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Governance Report</b>	
<b>Author(s):</b>	Amber Wild, Corporate Assurance Manager	
<b>Accountable Director:</b>	Deborah Lawrenson, Director of Corporate Governance	
<b>Other meetings this paper has been presented to or previously agreed at:</b>	<b>Committee/Tier 2 Group/Tier 3 Group</b>	N/A
	<b>Date:</b>	N/A
<b>Key points/ recommendations</b>	Recommendation: for the Council of Governors to have undertaken a self-assessment of its effectiveness during the year and to discuss its findings	

### Summary of key points in report

#### Membership and Engagement

As Governors are aware the most recent development sessions held in September (on membership engagement) and in January (on Learning Disability and Community Mental Health), were held in person. There is a full programme in place which is detailed on the governor calendar and is regularly shared with governors at each formal meeting, and as updates are made in between meetings. Governors are asked to provide feedback on any issues of particular interest they would like to be reflected in the development programme.

Regular drop-in sessions take place with the Chair separately for staff and public governors and with the Director of Corporate Governance (the Trust Secretary) and the Head of Corporate Assurance. This provides an opportunity to support issues raised by governors and to support them in their engagement.

We now have the new membership database in place. This provides an opportunity to engage across the whole membership and by area. We are exploring ways of using this tool to support engagement with constituencies on key topics in the coming financial year, including through joint working with the Trust's engagement team.

A separate session will take place to look at how we strengthen membership as part of a comprehensive approach to involvement within the organisation, working with the Engagement and Experience team to do a strategic review of involvement so that this aligned to our priorities and strategic aims.

The next development session (which will be hybrid in person and on line) will take place on 7 March 2024. The Director of Corporate Governance has asked Philip Gowland, Director of Corporate Governance, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDASH) to lead this session which will support understanding on the governor role in how best to effectively question and challenge.

#### Annual Self-Assessment

The Council of Governors is in the process of completing its annual self-assessment and to date we have received seventeen completed questionnaires. Any governors who haven't yet completed their review of effectiveness questionnaires are encouraged to return their responses by the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Following

receipt of all responses, the Chair and Director of Corporate Governance will take away key areas raised for further discussion with the Lead Governor and an update on proposed actions/reflecting on feedback received will be brought to the Council of Governors meeting in April 2024, as noted on the work programme.

**Recommendation for the Board/Committee to consider:**

Consider for Action		Approval		Assurance	X	Information	X
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The Council of Governors is asked to note the updates provided and to discuss key issues raised.

Please identify which strategic priorities will be impacted by this report:				
Effective Use of Resources	Yes		No	X
Deliver Outstanding Care	Yes		No	X
Great Place to Work	Yes	X	No	
Ensuring our services are inclusive	Yes		No	X
<b>Is this report relevant to compliance with any key standards ? State specific standard</b>				
Care Quality Commission Fundamental Standards	Yes		No	X
Data Security and Protection Toolkit	Yes		No	X
Any other specific standard?	Yes		No	X
<b>Have these areas been considered ? YES/NO</b>				
Service User and Carer Safety, Engagement and Experience	Yes	X	No	
Financial (revenue & capital)	Yes	X	No	
Organisational Development /Workforce	Yes	X	No	
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	Yes	X	No	
Legal	Yes	X	No	
Environmental sustainability	Yes	X	No	
If Yes, what are the implications or the impact? If no, please explain why				
Considered as part of the questionnaire where relevant				