



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting of the Council of Governors Committee held in public
on Thursday 2 February 2023 at 15:30
via Microsoft Teams

Chair	Suzy Brain England OBE - Chair of the Board
Public Governors	Peter Abell Irfan Ahmed Dennis Atkin Mark Bright Eileen Harrington Phil Holmes George Kirk Lynne Logan Andrew Middleton David Northwood Pauline Riley Lynne Schuller Sheila Walsh
Staff Governors Partner Governors In attendance	Mandy Tyrrell Anita Plant Mark Bailey - Non-executive Director Hazel Brand - Non-executive Director Jo Gander - Non-executive Director Claudia Gammon - Corporate Governance Officer (Minutes) Angela O'Mara - Deputy Company Secretary Richard Parker OBE - Chief Executive Kath Smart - Non-executive Director
Governor Apologies: Board Member Apologies	Mark Day - Non-executive Director Fiona Dunn - Director of Corporate Affairs/Company Secretary

COG23/02/A1 Welcome, apologies for absence (Verbal)

The Chair welcomed the Council of Governors and those in attendance to the meeting. The above apologies for absence were noted.

COG23/02/A2 Declaration of Governors' Interests (Enclosure A2)

No changes were declared to governors' interests.

The Council:

- ***Noted governors' current declarations of interests***

COG23/02/A3 Actions from previous meetings

There were no outstanding actions.

COG23/02/B Verbal Update from the Confidential Council of Governors Meeting – 2 February 2023

The Chair confirmed the appointment of two non-executive directors had been ratified at the earlier meeting of the confidential Council of Governors, subject to the satisfactory completion of employment checks. The successful candidates brought with them a wealth of experience and in due course a formal communication would be issued.

COG23/02/C Presentation

COG23/02/C1.1 Suzu Brain England - Chair's Report

The Chair provided an overview of her activities since the previous Council of Governors meeting, which included:

- Chamber Business Awards
- NHS Providers' Chair and Chief Executive Network Event
- Non-executive Director 1:1s and introductory meetings with the Chief Nurse and Chief Operating Officer
- Board Development Sessions
- Well-Being Wednesday Information Sessions
- Non-Executive Director Interviews
- System meetings

COG23/02/C1.2 Lynne Schuller - Lead Governor Update

The Lead Governor shared an overview of activities since the last Council of Governors meeting, which included:

- Governor Engagement Opportunities
- Non-executive Director Interviews
- Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS Event
- Partner Governor Meeting - The Partially Sighted Society
- Governor Coffee Morning

COG23/02/C1.3 Kath Smart - Audit & Risk

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee provided an update from January 2023's meeting, which included:

- Financial Sustainability Audit
- Maternity CNST Standards Audit
- Datix & Patient Safety Audit
- Head of Internal Audit Opinion
- Count Fraud Progress Report
- Bi-annual Health and Safety Report
- Launch of Declarations of Interest, via Civica Declare

COG23/02/C1.4 Jo Gander – Quality and Effectiveness Committee

The Chair of the Quality and Effectiveness Committee provided an update on the key highlights from the December 2022 meeting:

- Safer Staffing would now be considered by the People Committee, with any impact on quality shared with the Quality and Effectiveness Committee
- Annual Patient Experience Report
- Tendable – Clinical Audit Update
- Clinical Governance
- CQC Preparedness
- Sharing How We Care Newsletter
- Workplan Review

COG23/02/C1.5 Mark Bailey – Charitable Funds Committee & People Committee

Charitable Funds Committee

The Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee provided an update on the key highlights from December 2022's meeting:

- Hazel Brand would take on the role of Chair with effect from March 2023
- Update on Fund Balances
- Expenditure Approvals, which included multi-year funding for Health and Wellbeing, ENT Imaging Equipment and Nurse Associates Degree
- Meeting with the Executors of the Fred & Ann Green Legacy
- More Partnership Report

People Committee

The key highlights from January 2023's meeting included:

- Presentation of the People Strategy
- Recruitment Quality Improvement/Redesign
- Health and Wellbeing Activities
- Staff Engagement

COG23/02/C1.6 Finance and Performance Committee

In the absence of the Chair of the Finance and Performance Committee, Kath Smart provided an update on the key highlights from the Committee meetings held in November, December 2022 and January 2023, which included:

- Impact of Winter Pressures
- Year-end Forecast
- Elective and Non-elective Performance
- Ambulance Handovers
- Business Case Approval Recommendations - SYB Pathology Laboratory Information Management System Business Case, Bassetlaw Emergency Village & Patient Pathway Business Case

COG23/02/C1.7 Hazel Brand – Non-Executive Director

Hazel Brand, Non-Executive Director shared an insight into her activities since the previous Council of Governors meeting, which included:

- Charitable Funds Committee Handover
- Trust Representation at Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Events
- Pursuit of Sustainability
- Ward Visits, including Bassetlaw Emergency Village Site

COG23/02/C1.8 Richard Parker – Chief Executive Report

The Chief Executive reported a peak in Covid-19 infection rates in December 2022 /January 2023. Despite a reduction since then, there remained a need for critical care support. Influenza had been prevalent during the winter months and the public were encouraged to be vaccinated.

High levels of demand continued to be seen in Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC). An improving performance in ambulance handovers had been seen, although continued work to reduce waits closer to the required standard was required. This demand and high bed occupancy continued to drive the need for temporary staffing which impacted upon delivery of the financial plan. An increase in attendances had been seen across all sites, as compared to previous years and there was a need to recover the waiting lists.

Work to remove the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete continued in the area that was to be developed as the Bassetlaw Emergency Village. Approval of the business case was outstanding but the need to spend the funding by March 2024 was noted.

The South Yorkshire Pathology Laboratory Information Management System business case had received approval and would support digital transformation and efficiencies in the service.

Virtual Wards were being trialled to provide support for patients with specific care needs who could be cared for at home/in the community, and a validation project to improve patient pathway tracking was underway.

The Central Delivery Suite was in its final phase of redevelopment and was expected to reopen in March 2023. A midwifery led service would be offered and there would be the provision of a new bereavement suite for parents, significant fundraising activities had taken place to support this facility.

At Montagu Hospital, work on Phase 2 of the Community Diagnostic Centre was progressing to provide additional facilities, including a training provision.

The business case for the Montagu Elective Orthopaedic Centre (MEOC) developed in collaboration with the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and Barnsley Hospital had been approved and the works were expected to be completed in October 2023. The facility would support elective recovery on a non-emergency “cold” site, unaffected by emergency pressures.

The Chief Executive confirmed Karen Jessop, Chief Nurse and Denise Smith, Chief Operating Officer had now commenced in post, the substantive appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive was expected to go live in March 2023, once appointed the Executive Team would be fully recruited to.

Support from NHSE’s Emergency Care Improvement Support Team to improve patient flow through and out of the hospital had been secured. A 12-month improvement programme would address performance across the Place.

Additional areas of focus included cancer performance, workforce development, staff retention and the People strategy.

The impact of the nursing and ambulance service industrial action was noted and pay negotiations remained uncertain, a ballot in respect of junior doctors’ industrial action had commenced, the potential impact on service delivery was significant.

COG23/02/C1.9 Governor Questions

Peter Abell acknowledged the current national challenges facing the NHS. In response to a question with regards to the Trust’s reliance on temporary staffing, the Chief Executive confirmed recruitment continued to be a key priority and a long-term workforce plan was being developed to attract staff, alongside colleague retention. A change in perception post Covid and the increase in local competition was noted.

In response to a question from David Northwood, the Chief Executive confirmed the workforce for the Montagu Elective Orthopaedic Centre would be provided across all three organisations (Doncaster, Rotherham & Barnsley). The recruitment of an orthopaedic surgeon and international nurses had already taken place.

Andrew Middleton recognised the significant projects to enhance provision at both Bassetlaw and Montagu. In response to a question with regards to service pressures, the Chief Executive recognised the need for effective public communication around those services available as an alternative to the Accident & Emergency Department. In addition, plans to support those patients who did not require treatment in hospital to be cared for at home/in the community with the assistance of virtual wards was being progressed.

Partners would be actively engaged at Place to support the Urgent & Emergency Care Improvement Programme, and Senior Responsible Officers were accountable for delivery of their respective workstreams.

The Chair recognised the efforts of colleagues over the winter period and shared her appreciation.

The Council of Governors:

- ***Noted the Presentation***

COG23/02/D1 Minutes of the Council of Governors held on 24 November 2022

The Council of Governors:

- ***Noted and approved the Minutes of the Council of Governors held on the 24 November 2022***

COG23/03/E1 Questions from members of the public previously submitted prior to the meeting

No questions had been received from the public.

COG23/02/F1 Any other Business

No items of other business were raised.

COG23/02/F2 Items for escalation to the Board of Directors

No items for escalation were reported.

COG23/02/F3 Governor/Board Meeting Question Database

The Council of Governors:

- ***Received and noted the question database.***

COG23/02/F3 Date and time of next meeting (Verbal)

Date: **27 April 2023**
Time: **15:00**
Venue: **Microsoft Teams**

Meeting **17:27**
Close:



Suzy Brain England OBE

Chair of the Board

27 April 2023