

Trust Constitution - Council of Governors

Council of Governors	Item: 10
2nd July 2020	Enclosure: D
<p>Purpose of the Report:</p> <p>To confirm a change to the Trust's Constitution required by the merger of SW London CCGs and to establish the view of the Council of Governors on the size of its overall membership.</p>	
<p>For: Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assurance <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion and input <input type="checkbox"/> Decision/approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
Sponsor (Executive Lead):	Susan Simpson Director of Corporate Governance
Author:	Susan Simpson Director of Corporate Governance
Author Contact Details:	Susan.simpson19@nhs.net 020 8934 2522
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The Council of Governors is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approve the change to the Constitution shown in Appendix 1, required due to the merger of SW London CCGs. 2) agree not to recommend any further reduction in the size of the Council of Governors to the Board of Directors for the time being. 	

Trust Constitution - Council of Governors

With effect from 1st April 2020, the six Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in SW London (the CCGs for Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth) formally merged to become one organisation and the nominating bodies for three of the four CCG appointed members ceased to exist. The Trust's Constitution will need to change to reflect this as the SW London CCG has indicated that they will nominate two governor representatives (from three governors previously nominated by the individual organisations).

Separately, feedback from governors in the recent survey conducted as part of the training session led by NHS Providers on the effectiveness of the Council of Governors was that the size of the Council may be too large for it to be cohesive. The reduction in CCG representation would allow for the number of public governors to reduce whilst still maintaining the required proportions.

Changes to the Trust's Constitution require the approval of both the Council of Governors and the Trust Board, and only if –

- a) more than half of the members of the Council of Governors of the Trust voting approve the amendments; and
- b) more than half of the members of the Board of Directors of the Trust voting approve the amendments.

The Council of Governors is asked to approve the amendment required by the merger of the SW London CCGs as shown in Appendix 1.

As the first stage in deciding whether or not the Council of Governors would also wish to pursue a reduction in size of the CoG, Governors were invited to give their views through a survey. Fifteen (of possible 29) responses were received to the following questions.

Q1 Do you agree that the Council of Governors should reduce in size?

Q2 Are you in favour of a simple reduction in size by reducing the number of Public Governors by 2?

Q3 If we were to reduce the number of Public Governors by two we have elections in the Autumn for seats in all areas so it should be possible to reduce the overall size without losing anyone mid-term. The best way to approach this option would be to.... [a number of different options were proposed]

Q4 If you chose to combine or remove the single seats for Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton or Rest of Surrey & Greater London, how would you do this?

Q5 If your preference is to reduce the Council of Governors further, what would you think is the optimal size for the group to fulfil its responsibilities and operate effectively?

Q6 If the Council of Governors was to reduce to 27 or fewer (i.e. choosing to reduce by more than 2 Public Governors), how would you achieve a fair representation?

Conclusions

The majority (53.33%) of respondents answered 'No' to the first question, which indicates that the Council of Governors does not currently support a reduction in overall size.

Themes running through the narrative comments on all questions were about:

- a) balancing representation on the CoG with numbers of patients using the Hospital or the number of patients for whom it is their nearest Hospital.
- b) reviewing appointed governor posts as well as public governors before deciding whether or not to reduce.
- c) small scale reduction not being seen as beneficial.
- d) helping all governors to feel they have a voice, regardless of size of the CoG.

Recommendations:

The Council of Governors is asked to:

- 3) approve the change to the Constitution shown in Appendix 1, required due to the merger of SW London CCGs.
- 4) agree not to recommend any further reduction in the size of the Council of Governors to the Board of Directors for the time being.

ANNEX 3 COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

(Paragraphs 11.2 and 11.3)

The composition of the Council of Governors is as set out below, provided always that the number of Public Governors shall be more than half the total membership of the Council of Governors.

<p>Public = 17 (Elected)</p> <p>Kingston - 7 Richmond - 4 Elmbridge-2 Wandsworth (part)-1 Merton - 1 Sutton -1 Rest of Surrey and Greater London - 1</p>	<p>Staff = 4 (Elected)</p> <p>Medical and Dental Practitioners Nursing and Midwifery Allied Health Professionals and Clinical Support Staff Management, Administrative and Support Staff (including Contractors)</p> <hr/> <p>Appointed = 14 10</p> <p>South West London CCG - 2 Kingston CCG - 1 Richmond CCG - 1 Surrey CCG- 1 A governor appointed jointly by Wandsworth, Merton and Sutton CCGs - 1</p> <p>Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames - 2 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames - 1 Elmbridge Borough Council - 1 London Borough of Wandsworth - 1 A governor appointed jointly by the London Borough of Sutton and the London Borough of Merton Constituency Classes (identified in Annex 1) - 1 Kingston University (partnership organisation)– 1</p>
<p>Total 17</p>	<p>Total 15 14</p>