

Associate Member for Young People

Council of Governors	Item: 9
19th January 2021	Enclosure: C
Purpose of the Report:	
To seek approval for a new role of Associate Member for Young People and appointment of the first post holder.	
For: Information <input type="checkbox"/> Assurance <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion and input <input type="checkbox"/> Decision/approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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Summary and recommendations:	
The Council of Governors is asked to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the creation of the role of Associate Member for Young People; and b) the appointment of Olivia Arney as the first holder of the post for an initial term of office of two years with effect from 20th January 2021. 	

Associate Member for Young People

The Council of Governors is committed to achieving broad representation in the Foundation Trust's membership but has not yet succeeded in recruiting young people as FT members in any significant number. This has been the subject of discussion by the CoG on a number of occasions.

During the process in the run up to the Governor elections held in November 2020, it was identified that young candidates are potentially at a disadvantage in the election process because they are not reflected in the FT membership base from which votes come. Consequently the idea emerged of creating the role of Associate Member for Young People to assist the Council by strengthening the voice of young people in discussions of the Council of Governors and to support its work in membership recruitment and engagement.

The role description brief shown overleaf has been developed in consultation with the Lead Governor (Frances Kitson) and the Chair of the Membership Recruitment & Engagement Committee (Jack Saltman). The Trust's legal advisors have confirmed that creation of the role is permitted within the framework of NHS Foundation Trust governance.

The views of one of the candidates in the latest round of elections (Olivia Arney) were sought on the proposed role and she has expressed an interest in taking up the post to assist with its development. It is thought that this would be a helpful step given the interest she has already shown in applying to become a member of the Council of Governors and the perspective she would bring to testing out the new role.

For this first appointment, assuming the role is approved, it is proposed not to go out to open competition and to appoint Olivia Arney on the basis that:

- Olivia applied to be a Governor through the public process leading to the November 2020 elections and that process was open to all interested young people living within the area defined in the Hospital's constitution;
- Olivia's application was carried through to the election stage and she achieved good support, albeit that she was not ultimately successful in being appointed;
- her engagement with the election process and subsequent discussion on the role description indicate that her appointment is likely to strengthen the work of the Council of Governors with young people.

Any future appointments would be made through open competition, subject to the role developing to deliver the outcomes envisaged.

The Council of Governors is therefore asked to approve:

- c) the creation of the role of Associate Member for Young People; and
- d) the appointment of Olivia Arney as the first holder of the post for an initial term of office of two years with effect from 20th January 2021.

Associate Member for Young People - Role Description

The Council of Governors is committed to achieving broad representation in the Foundation Trust's membership but has not yet succeeded in recruiting young people as FT members in any significant number.

The role of the Associate Member for Young People has been created to assist the Council by strengthening the voice of young people in discussions of the Council of Governors and to support its work in membership recruitment and engagement.

The Associate Member for Young People is invited to participate in meetings of the Council of Governors and its Membership Recruitment & Engagement Committee on a non-voting basis.

Person specification

- Eligible for election as a Governor in one of the public constituencies listed in the Trust's Constitution.
- Aged 16-21.
- Able to attend meetings of the Council of Governors and its Membership Recruitment & Engagement Committee.
- Prepared to abide by the Governors' Code of Conduct.
- Willing and able to engage with other Young People to encourage Foundation Trust membership and engagement with Kingston Hospital.

Appointment

The appointment is an unremunerated voluntary role. Reasonable expenses will be paid for travel to attend meetings and events associated with the Council of Governors and the Hospital.

The post holder will be appointed by the Council of Governors for a period of two years, after which the post holder is eligible to be considered for reappointment.

If the post holder is elected as a Governor during their term of office as Associate Member for Young People, the latter post will immediately become vacant.