

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS – GOVERNOR TRAINING

Council of Governors	Item: 11
19th April 2022	Enclosure: C
Purpose of the Report: To discuss training options for the Governors.	
For: Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assurance <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion and input <input type="checkbox"/> Decision/approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
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Recommendations: The Council of Governors is asked to note and discuss options for training.	

Council of Governors – Governor Training

Governors will recall that for quarter four, NHSEI advised trusts to reduce the burden of reporting and administration in response to the Omicron variant. This was the second time trusts had been requested to do this during the pandemic, and it included streamlining meetings and, in some cases, standing them down. During this period, it was decided to stand down formal training sessions for Governors.

While it is necessary for hospitals to continue a stricter infection prevention and control protocol, there is now an opportunity to reintroduce suspended activities such as Governor Desks and training.

Last year, the Governors chose the following subjects to focus on for training:

- Finance or accountancy
- Facilities management, health and safety
- Legal or regulatory sectors

A session on NHS finances was prepared in November 2021. However, there was not enough take-up for the session to go ahead. It was being rescheduled, when the 'reduce the burden' directive for quarter four of the year was published by NHSEI, and it was decided to pause training sessions for the quarter.

Governors have had informal training over this time, such as the last Governor and Non-Executive Director session where Jonathan Guppy provided background on finance and budgeting for the Trust, and Damien Regent provided a presentation on how the Audit Committee and related governance in the Trust operated. Council of Governor meetings also have regular presentations on developments in Place and the system, and at our last meeting there was an in-depth presentation on staff turnover and wellbeing.

If there is support, the Trust will reschedule the finance training for those Governors who are interested in attending, and other sessions if warranted.

There is also the possibility of providing a half-day training session with NHS Providers, and it is proposed that this session be held offsite and be conducted face-to-face. This would not only provide a training session on the roles and responsibilities of a Governor, which could be either a refresher or something new depending on previous training and experience, it would provide an opportunity for Governors to meet as a group face-to-face.

The subject matter for the half-day training session would include:

- An overview of the NHS environment, an introduction to the regulators in healthcare and STPs and ICSs
- Governance and role of a Governor
- Current challenges for quality
- Effective questioning and challenge

We will discuss this proposed session at our Council of Governors meeting on 19th April 2022 and, if there is support, a date could be set for May or June 2022 for the training to be delivered.

Sam Armstrong
Director of Corporate Affairs & Trust Secretary