

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
 HELD ON TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021, FROM 14.00-16.30 HOURS
 MEETING HELD DIGITALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT	Caroline Maley Valerie Broom Susan Ryan Rob Poole Lynda Langley Julie Lowe Carole Riley Stuart Mourton Orla Smith Andrew Beaumont Christopher Williams Julie Boardman Kevin Richards Rosemary Farkas Marie Hickman Kel Sims Jo Foster Dr Farina Tahira Rachel Bounds Jodie Cook Dr Stephen Wordsworth Cllr Roy Webb	Trust Chair and Chair of Council of Governors Public Governor, Amber Valley Public Governor, Amber Valley Public Governor, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Public Governor, Chesterfield and Lead Governor Public Governor, Derby City East Public Governor, Derby City East Public Governor, Derby City West Public Governor, Derby City West Public Governor, Erewash Public Governor, Erewash Public Governor, High Peak and Derbyshire Dales Public Governor, South Derbyshire Public Governor, Surrounding Areas Staff Governor, Admin and Allied Support Staff Staff Governor, Admin and Allied Support Staff Staff Governor, Nursing Staff Governor, Medical Appointed Governor, Derbyshire Voluntary Association Appointed Governor, Derbyshire Mental Health Forum Appointed Governor, University of Derby Appointed Governor, Derby City Council
IN ATTENDANCE	Margaret Gildea Ashiedu Joel Geoff Lewins Julia Tabreham Richard Wright Ifti Majid Carolyn Green Justine Fitzjohn Lee Doyle John MacDonald Martin Whittle Denise Baxendale	Non-Executive Director and Senior Independent Director Non-Executive Director Non-Executive Director Non-Executive Director Non-Executive Director Chief Executive Executive Director of Nursing and Patient Experience Trust Secretary Acting Director of Operations Independent Chair, Joined Up Care Derbyshire (JUCD) Chair of JUCD Engagement Committee Membership and Involvement Manager
(For Item 016 only) (For Item 016 only)	John MacDonald Martin Whittle Denise Baxendale	Independent Chair, Joined Up Care Derbyshire (JUCD) Chair of JUCD Engagement Committee Membership and Involvement Manager
APOLOGIES	Carol Sherriff Al Munnien	Public Governor, High Peak and Derbyshire Dales Staff Governor, Nursing

ITEM	<u>ITEM</u>
DHCFT/GOV /2021/019	<p><u>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</u></p> <p>Caroline Maley welcomed all to the meeting especially to John MacDonald and Martin Whittle. She reminded everyone that the meeting was being streamed for public viewing. The apologies were noted; and no interests were declared.</p>
DHCFT/GOV /2021/020	<p><u>THE INTEGRATION WHITE PAPER – GOVERNANCE</u></p> <p>John MacDonald, Independent Chair Joined Up Care Derbyshire (JUCD) and Martin Whittle, Chair of JUCD Engagement Committee delivered a presentation on exploring future opportunities for governors to influence JUCD Integrated Care</p>

System (ICS). He emphasised that the purpose of the ICS was for the people of Derby and Derbyshire to have the best start in life, to live well, age well and die well.

John referred to the following:

- JUCD is now officially designated as an ICS
- The Government's recently published white paper on the future of ICS's which focuses on:
 - The health and social care system and the importance of transformation
 - Partnership working
 - Reducing bureaucracy and duplications
 - Strategic commissioning and strategic provision
 - The NHS's role in wider determinants of health.

He explained that this will mean:

- JUCD ICS will become a statutory body
- Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) statutory functions will transfer into the ICS
- Establishment of an ICS NHS Board and a Health and Social Care Partnership
- There will be no national blueprint.

John also explained that the timescales are clear and the transition to become an ICS has already begun; with JUCD working in a shadow form from September 2021 and becoming a statutory authority in April 2022. He also emphasised the importance of JUCD building a strong link with governors and for governors to understand the wider system and the role of the Trust within it. He anticipated that there will not be a formal group of governors on ICS boards but a final definition on governance has not yet been published.

Martin explained that it is a statutory requirement for the Chair of the system to engage with the community and statutory accountabilities will transfer to ICS. He reiterated that engaging with the community will be core and provide assurance to that things are being carried out correctly.

It was noted that the national guidance should be taken and used to mould and fit to Derbyshire which covers all aspects of healthcare. Once the guidance is made available the partners in JUCD will be able to make further plans. Referring to engagement, Martin confirmed that the system has already established a Citizen's Panel with members being able to express an interest in particular issues/locations and this will help to ensure that views from members and the public are represented. Partners are also members of particular workstreams which align to their expertise for example Derbyshire Healthcare works specifically in the mental health workstream board which Ifti Majid leads on.

Rosemary Farkas asked how the new system will take account of health inequalities and stigma. John explained that there will be the potential to form stronger relationships with Local Authorities and the ability for issues to be addressed at the wider board.

Valerie Broom referred to the complexity of the ICS and suggested that governors will need training and support in understanding the system.

It was noted that John hoped to see more joined up services and opportunities to bring greater collaboration, as already seen during the pandemic, in order to support the delivery of care. It was also noted that there will be a move away from contracting and the focus will be on planning and allocation. He reiterated that the intention of the ICS is to improve patients experience and reduce bureaucracy.

The Chair thanked John and Martin for their update and also conveyed her appreciation to Kevin Richards and Carole Riley who have represented governors at JUCD Engagement Committee meetings.

	(John and Martin left the meeting at 14.29.)
DHCFT/GOV /2021/021	<p><u>SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u></p> <p>No questions from members of the public had been received.</p>
DHCFT/GOV /2021/022	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS' MEETINGS ON THE 2 MARCH 2021 AND 1 APRIL 2021</u></p> <p><i>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March 2021</i> The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021 were accepted as a correct record.</p> <p><i>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 April 2021</i> The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2021 were accepted as a correct record.</p>
DHCFT/GOV /2021/023	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS MATRIX</u></p> <p>All completed 'green' actions were scrutinised to ensure that they were fully completed. The Council of Governors agreed to close completed actions. There were no matters arising.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors noted the completed actions and comments on the Action Matrix.</p>
DHCFT/GOV /2021/024	<p><u>CHIEF EXECUTIVE UPDATE</u></p> <p>Ifti Majid provided the meeting with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. He confirmed that Derbyshire has a low transmission rate; and that no patients in the Trust's inpatient facilities have COVID-19; this is due to the Trust's strong infection prevention and control. Only 17 members of staff are currently off work due to COVID-19 related illnesses, the majority of which have had a reaction to the vaccines e.g. nausea and have been encouraged to stay off work. The Trust now has the facilities to vaccinate its staff and patients in its inpatient facilities. It was noted that Derbyshire is one of the best counties in terms of vaccination compliance; this also applies to colleagues. • System working – Ifti agreed to circulate his presentation to governors. • Staff survey – 61% of colleagues completed the survey during the second COVID-19 wave in September and October 2020. A high percentage of colleagues would recommend the Trust as a great place to work compared to 30% and 40% in 2015 and 2016 respectively. It was noted the Trust is above average in all 10 domains of the survey. Rob Poole congratulated the Trust on such positive results and asked if there are any plans to celebrate this achievement. Ifti explained that recognition will be given at the staff HEARTS Awards in May and at the Annual Members' Meeting in September. The Trust will also be celebrating being awarded a 'good' from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which the Trust had been unable to celebrate due to the pandemic. Kevin Richards noted the increase in morale which should have a positive impact on absenteeism and retention and recruitment of staff. • Roadmap out of lockdown – Ifti presented the Trust's roadmap which is in three stages: April to June; July to September; and October onwards. Ifti outlined the first stage which focuses on colleagues and team resilience. • The Trust Strategy was refreshed in April 2021 and includes the Trust Vision, the four Trust values, three strategic objectives, building blocks and priority and actions. The building blocks explain what the Trust needs to do to improve; the vision and values remain the cornerstone of the Trust; and actions include eradicating dormitories, changing to a single electronic patient record (EPR), and great place to work priorities. • Integrated Care Systems – following on from John MacDonald's and Martin Whittle's presentation on the ICS, Ifti referred to the guidance 'Integrating care:

	<p>Next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England which details how organisations will accelerate collaborative ways of working in future; and The NHS's recommendations to Government and Parliament for an NHS Bill its purpose being to free up different parts of the NHS to work together and with partners more easily. The Bill will bring about the formality of the structure from April 2022; will remove barriers to integration through joint committees, collaborative commissioning approaches and joint appointments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICS and collaborative working – Ifti reiterated the importance of collaborative working e.g. with Local Authorities and other trusts. Roy Webb declared an interest in the collaborative work with Local Authorities. He explained that he is a member of JUCD Board and the proposal does not include a road map for social care; and expressed concern at the lack of addressing social care in the Bill. There appears to be no formalised process for social care (adults and children); social care is still on the annual funding process unlike health which is on a three-five year funding. However, there is an area of doubt and although JUCD are working around this it needs to be formalised in a better way. • Ifti referred to the 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance and in particular to: ICS's being required to set out their delivery and governance arrangements that will support the NHS Priorities; systems should begin their procurement of a shared care record so that a minimum viable product is live in September and roadmap for development to include wider data sources and use for population health is ready for April 2022. It was noted that the Trust is in the process of looking at joining up shared records across Derbyshire. <p><i>(Stuart Mourton left the meeting at 3.02pm.)</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors noted the helpful information and explanations provided by Ifti Majid.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ifti Majid's presentation and documents mentioned will be sent to governors to read
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/025</p>	<p><u>VERBAL SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT</u></p> <p>The Integrated Performance Report (IPR) was presented to the Council of Governors by Ashiedu Joel, Non-Executive Director (NED). The focus of the report was on workforce, finance, operational delivery and quality performance. Ashiedu gave a summary of the Public Trust Board that took place this morning which included: a patient story from a Trust colleague; flexible approaches to work for colleagues; roadmap out of lockdown; keeping patients and staff safe. She also referred to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board had conveyed their appreciation to Cllr Jim Perkins who has stood down as Appointed Governor for Derbyshire County Council. • Employment and access to work in the Trust – the Trust is in the process of implementing best practice and data intelligence in order to close the gaps • The Trust was £2.1 million in deficit at the end of this year. This was due to the pandemic and additional cost for moving over patient records from Paris to SystmOne. • NHS Improvement have agreed the Trust's dormitories eradication programme. • A focus on waiting lists and the impact the pandemic has had on them. The Trust is looking at how to address the increasing waiting list. During the pandemic some patients have opted to have appointments/assessments via digital means which have proved successful, • Due to the pandemic and lack of capacity, staff appraisals and mandatory training have been paused. A people plan is being developed to stand these up. • The reduction in staff absence is the lowest in a three year period,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment is ongoing. <p>The Trust Chair thanked Ashiedu for the comprehensive summary of the Trust Board meeting.</p> <p>Julia Tabreham, NED and Chair, People and Culture Committee explained that during the pandemic meetings had been streamlined and are now back to full governance. The Committee has developed a dashboard which aligns with the strategy and system work which is working really well. The Committee has stopped using acronyms around black and ethnic minority groups and will instead look at specific communities to drive forward a better understanding of these communities. The Committee was fully compliant, and Julia expressed her appreciation to Sue Turner, Board Secretary for her continued support. She also noted that cross committee assurance is working well. Julia expressed her delight at the outcomes of the staff survey and acknowledged this was under Ifti's and Caroline's leadership.</p> <p><i>(Rob Poole left the meeting at 4.16pm.)</i></p> <p>Richard Wright, NED and Chair, Finance and Performance Committee sought to clarify the deficit mentioned by Ashiedu. He explained that this is the same amount as unspent annual leave provision monies which the Centre has agreed that the Trust can carry forward. This means that the Trust broke even and is not in deficit. He also explained that staff had not taken annual leave in 2020/21 due to the pandemic. He also explained that funding for the £80 million programme had been approved to eradicate all dormitories which will be replaced by single en-suite rooms. Richard confirmed that the Trust is required to carry out this work in a given time period, present outline and full business cases to other bodies, including the ICS, for approval. It was noted that this is in line with the Trust 'great care' objective to improve the Trust's estate. He also mentioned the development of a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) that the Trust will be part funding.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the information provided in the IPR. Agreed that the NEDs have held the Executive Directors to account.
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/026</p>	<p><u>NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S (NED) DEEP DIVE</u></p> <p>Margaret Gildea, Senior Independent Director (SID) and Chair of the Quality and Safeguarding Committee presented her Deep Dive to governors. It included a summary of her activities over the past year and the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The responsibility as SID to carry out the Chair's appraisal. Margaret confirmed that the appraisal was very positive. One of the statutory roles of the Council of Governors is to recruit a Chair; and as SID Margaret will be supporting the process of so that governors can be assured that it will be a fair and inclusive process. Combining the Quality and Safeguarding Committees has been effective. Reporting has been shortened during the pandemic to minimise the workload for executive members of the Committee. The Committee has focused on assurance around physical healthcare, waiting lists, the Trust's response to COVID-19, serious incidents, patient and carer experience, medicines management, learning from deaths, safe working, safeguarding children and adults. She conveyed her appreciation to Sue Turner, Board Secretary for her continued support in the running of the Committee. During lock down Quality Visits have been paused but the quality of reports has mitigated this loss. <p>Margaret also gave a summary of her work as a member of the People and Culture Committee (PCC); Mental Health Act Committee; and Audit and Risk Committee.</p>

	<p>The Chair thanked Margaret for her comprehensive Deep Dive and also conveyed her appreciation to her for her work and great wealth of wisdom.</p> <p><i>(Dr Farina Tahira left the meeting at 3pm.)</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors received the Deep Dive Report from Margaret Gildea.</p>
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/027</p>	<p><u>ESCALATION ITEMS TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS FROM THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>One item of escalation was received from the Governance Committee meeting held on 1 April 2021:</p> <p>How are the NEDs assured about the capacity in A&E through the Mental Health Liaison teams to support people with deteriorating mental health as a result of COVID, and in particular older adults and those with longer term conditions such as Bi Polar Disorder, who may have had other access to support in the community which they have not been able to access.</p> <p>The response to the question attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes, was read out at the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors</p> <p>1) The Council of Governors was satisfied with the response.</p>
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/028</p>	<p><u>UPDATE ON THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS</u></p> <p>Denise Baxendale gave an update on the public and staff governor elections. She explained that the Council of Governors have the following vacancies including seats for those governors whose term of office end on 1 June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public governor vacancies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bolsover and North East Derbyshire (two vacancies) - Chesterfield (one vacancy) - High Peak and Derbyshire Dales (one vacancy) • Staff governor vacancies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admin and Allied Support (one vacancy) - Allied Profession (one vacancy) - Nursing (two vacancies). <p>Activity to promote the vacancies and identify individuals interested in the governor vacancies had been intensive and a detailed list of the activities was provided in the report.</p> <p>Denise confirmed that nominations had closed on 19 April and the situation regarding the vacancies is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolsover and North East Derbyshire – uncontested (one vacancy stands) • Chesterfield – contested with two nominations • High Peak and Derbyshire Dales – contested with four nominations • Admin and Allied Support – uncontested • Allied Professions – contested with two nominations • Nursing – contested with four nominations <p>She also confirmed that the notice of poll will be published on 7 May; the voting packs will be despatched on 10 May and elections close 5pm on 28 May with results being declared soon after.</p> <p>On behalf of the Council of Governors, the Chair conveyed her appreciation to Denise for her hard work and great outcomes.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors</p>

	<p>1) Noted the information provided on the election process.</p>
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/029</p>	<p><u>REPORT FROM GOVERNORS NOMINATIONS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE – MEETINGS HELD ON 18 MARCH AND 21 APRIL 2021; AND THE COMMITTEE’S YEAR END REPORT 2020/21</u></p> <p>The Caroline Maley declared an interest in this item as it includes the Chair’s appraisal and the process for recruiting a new Trust Chair. Therefore Justine Fitzjohn, Trust Secretary presented the report and went through the key points in the paper which outlined the Trust Chair and six Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) appraisals as well as several year-end governance reports specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time commitment, balance of skills, committee membership and succession planning. • Annual collective performance review of the committee in accordance with its Terms of Reference. • Annual review of Terms of Reference before submission to the Council of Governors. • Review of the levels of remuneration for NEDs. • The Committee’s year-end report 2020/21 and revised Terms of Reference. • Trust Chair recruitment process (it was noted that Margaret Gildea had included an overview of the recruitment process in her Deep Dive). <p><i>(Kevin Richards left the meeting at 16:10.)</i></p> <p>Lynda Langley assured the Council that a robust process had been undertaken for the Chair and NEDs appraisals and conveyed her appreciation to Margaret Gildea and Justine Fitzjohn for their support. Caroline also conveyed her appreciation to Justine for producing the report and masterminding all the appraisals for her.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the updated report from the two meetings of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee held 18 March and 21 April 2021 2) Received assurance from the Committee that satisfactory appraisals have taken place for the Trust Chair and Non-Executive Directors 3) Approved the four Chair objectives as set out in the report 4) Noted the 28 June for the recruitment stakeholder groups in governor diaries 5) Approved the annual collective performance review of the committee in accordance with its Terms of Reference 6) Approved the Terms of Reference.
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/030</p>	<p><u>COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS ANNUAL EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY (TO APPROVE)</u></p> <p>Denise Baxendale presented the report to approve the process for this year’s Governor Annual Effectiveness Survey. She explained that the Council of Governors carries out its annual effectiveness survey in line with best practice. The results are presented to the Governance Committee and then to the Council of Governors.</p> <p>There are 28 questions including three free text sections for capturing suggestions for training needs, suggestions for improvements and an overall assessment of effectiveness.</p> <p>Last year as in previous years the survey was undertaken in September, with the results being presented to the Governance Committee in October and the Council of Governors in November. It is recommended that the survey this year follows the same process: to be undertaken in September 2021, with the results being presented to the Governance Committee in October and the Council of Governors in November. The survey will be promoted widely in Governor Connect, via governor meetings, and emails encouraging governors to complete the survey.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the information provided in the report 2) Approved that the survey is undertaken in September 2021.
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/031</p>	<p><u>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – 1 APRIL 2021</u></p> <p>The Council of Governors received the report from the Governance Committee meeting which took place on 1 April 2021. Julie Lowe, Chair of the Committee referred to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Members’ Meeting will be held virtually on 9 September, the theme of which is ‘Cohesion through COVID-19’. It will close with the announcement of the winners of the ‘Finding my calm during COVID’ writing competition. • Governors approved the draft Governor and Membership Section of the Annual Report 2020/21 • Governors reviewed their individual declarations of interest • A governor training and development session on the Integrated performance Report (IPR) is in the process of being arranged and an engagement session has been organised for 6 October • Governors were asked to consider the Lead Governor role. <p>Denise Baxendale also referred to the Committee’s suggestion that the Council of Governors give special dispensation to staff governors unable to attend meetings due to the pressures of the pandemic.</p> <p>Caroline confirmed that the Committee is going from strength to strength and conveyed her thanks to Denise for serving the Committee and to Julie Lowe for chairing the meetings.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Council of Governors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the information provided in the Governance Committee Report 2) Approved special dispensation for staff governors unable to attend meetings during the pandemic.
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/032</p>	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Appointed Governor, Derbyshire County Council</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Jim Perkins has stood down as Appointed Governor representing Derbyshire County Council. Caroline Maley has sent Jim a letter of thanks and is looking forward to meeting the nominated representative who will be replacing him. Lynda Langley explained that Jim had contacted her and had requested that his appreciation to Denise Baxendale for her support in his governor role be conveyed to her.</p> <p>News from the Trust’s appointed governors’ representation the voluntary sector</p> <p>Jodie Cook, Appointed Governor, Derbyshire Mental Health Forum referred to the self-harm review commissioned by Public Health. It is envisaged that the self-harm review will be ready in the autumn. Jodie also referred to an event being organised by the Mental Health Systems on urgent care. This will be taking place on 12 October and will showcase and celebrate the mental health support and helpline and the Safe Haven in Derby.</p> <p>Caroline Maley thanked Jodie for the update and encouraged all governors to subscribe to the e-newsletters produced by Derbyshire Mental Health Forum and Derbyshire Voluntary Association.</p> <p>IPR governor training and development session</p> <p>Denise Baxendale confirmed that the session has been scheduled for 12 May from 2-3pm. It will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>Trust writing competition</p>

	<p>Denise Baxendale confirmed that the Trust writing competition ‘Finding my calm during Covid’ is now open. Governors are encouraged to promote the competition with their families, friends, constituents and members of the public.</p> <p>Lead Governor role Lynda Langley, Lead Governor and the Chair informed the meeting that no expressions of interest for the Lead Governor role have been submitted. Both the Chair and Lynda are keen to work with the new Lead Governor before their terms finish in September 2021 and March 2022 respectively. Caroline encouraged governors to consider the role.</p> <p>NHS Providers Governor Focus Conference showcase The Council agreed to submit an application for the governors showcase at the NHS Providers Governors Focus Conference. The showcase is an opportunity for Council of Governors from across England to demonstrate to their peers how they are exercising their statutory duties. The deadline for submitting an application is 14 May. Julie Lowe, Lynda Langley, Carole Riley, Orla Smith and Christopher Williams agreed to support Denise Baxendale in the application process.</p>
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/033</p>	<p><u>REVIEW OF THE MEETING EFFECTIVENESS AND FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT</u></p> <p>The Council of Governors agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governors are adhering to the Code of Conduct - The meeting included a clear oversight of Integrated Care Systems - The meeting was efficiently chaired and finished early - The meeting covered all agenda items with enough time for discussion - Governors were assured that the NEDs are holding the Board to account.
<p>DHCFT/GOV /2021/034</p>	<p><u>CLOSE OF MEETING</u></p> <p>Caroline Maley thanked all for their attendance and input.</p> <p>An extraordinary Council of Governors meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 July from 2.30-3.00pm to appoint the new Trust Chair.</p> <p>A Council of Governors meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 September, from 2.00pm.</p> <p>Governors were asked to note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust Board and Council of Governors session on Tuesday 6 July from 3.10-4.45pm • Trust Annual Members’ Meeting to be held on Thursday 9 September from 2.00pm. <p>The meeting closed at 16:30 hours.</p>

Escalation items to the Council of Governors from the Governance Committee

Question One:

How are the NEDs assured about the capacity in A&E through the Mental Health Liaison teams to support people with deteriorating mental health as a result of COVID, and in particular older adults and those with longer term conditions such as Bi Polar Disorder, who may have had other access to support in the community which they have not been able to access.

Response:

We have two core 24 complaint mental health liaison teams. Core 24 is the national recommended configuration or make up of liaison teams. Activity is strong and teams remain in place. Our emergency response is supplemented by the mental health helpline, which as a 24 hour support system is an additional layer of support to people in our care who are impacted by COVID-19 and the pressures of the lockdown and the wider loss experienced in our communities. Our liaison teams in the north and south continue to have practitioners who specialise in older adults. Where additional care is needed our older adults team remain at full strength.

Our benchmarking of clinical activity remains strong. There is strong evidence of face to face, virtual and telephone support. Our activity of staying in contact is in the top 10% in the country.

However, we are very aware that third sector, social care and trust groups are paused or delayed, and this will have an impact on our people. The Trust teams have maintained a number of groups with a virtual offer, but this may not be a suitable alternative offer or a person's preference.

Overall an individual in our care is more likely to struggle through the pandemic and the changes to services will be experienced very differently across the spectrum of people we serve. Our clinical team are very mindful of this. We are not seeing a significant deterioration in relapse rates, more natural reactions to restriction and loneliness.

We are continuing at this time with our mixed offer of service and we will start to meet people in our care gradually. For some this will be meeting in a garden or a short walk in April, meeting in small cluster groups in May in less than groups of six outside for walking or horticultural groups and a gradual phased change to how we are working.

The national roadmap is a conservative path and incremental steps to more social/therapeutic contact. The Trust's steps will mirror this model.