

Council of Governors - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Lead Governor Report		Date:	11 th February 2025		
Prepared By:	Liz Barrett, Lead Governor					
Approved By:	Liz Barrett, Lead Governor					
Presented By:	Liz Barrett, Lead Governor					
Purpose						
To share an overview as to the activities that Governors are engaging in and the impact of this work				Approval		
				Assurance	X	
				Update	X	
				Consider		
Strategic Objectives						
Provide outstanding care in the best place at the right time	Empower and support our people to be the best they can be	Improve health and wellbeing within our communities	Continuously learn and improve	Sustainable use of resources and estates	Work collaboratively with partners in the community	
	X	X	X			
Principal Risk						
PR1	Significant deterioration in standards of safety and care					
PR2	Demand that overwhelms capacity					
PR3	Critical shortage of workforce capacity and capability					
PR4	Insufficient financial resources available to support the delivery of services					
PR5	Inability to initiate and implement evidence-based Improvement and innovation					
PR6	Working more closely with local health and care partners does not fully deliver the required benefits					X
PR7	Major disruptive incident					
PR8	Failure to deliver sustainable reductions in the Trust's impact on climate change					
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before						
Acronyms						
SFHFT (Sherwood Forest Hospital Foundation Trust) MYG (Meet Your Governor) NED (Non Executive Director) ICB (Integrated Care Board)						
Executive Summary						
An overview as to how Governors have been spending their time this quarter and the impact of this.						

I would like to start this report by acknowledging the recent passing of a valued Sherwood Forest Hospital Foundation Trust Governor, John Wood. For the past nine years, John had been a very active Governor for SFHFT contributing many hours to support the Trust, staff, patients, carers and the community. His attention to detail, care, support and wisdom really modelled what great governance is all about. John's funeral was a lovely tribute to a great man. He will be greatly missed in many ways including his presence within our Governing Body.

The Governing Body for SFHFT have continued to commit volunteer time to support Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust again this quarter through a variety of different ways.

Governors engagement with 15 Steps continues to be strong on a monthly basis. A 15 Steps visit that I personally undertook again last week really did highlight to me again the challenges that staff face during their daily working lives and the resilience in which they deploy to deal with this. Once again, I noted a calm and clean ward which I also find reassuring.

Attendance at Governor meetings remains high with Governors actively contributing strong discussion points to the debates. Individually and collectively we are keen to ensure we continue to support the quality improvements taking place within SFHFT. As a group of Governors, we have continued to ask questions around finance and are grateful to Graham Ward and Andrew Graham for attending a recent meeting to share the current finance landscape which was incredibly helpful.

Several Governors were involved in NED interviews at the end of 2024. There was a strong field of candidates and it felt like the appointments we made will really compliment the existing NED team and bring additional knowledge/skills to the team.

A few Governors recently held a meeting with REACH and the SFHFT disability team. This was organised by Governor Peter Gregory and was an incredibly useful meeting. Together we learnt that whilst there are a lot of good policies and procedures in place for people with disabilities who come i to SFHFT, in practice there are gaps. The meeting was constructive in terms of next steps with staff from SFHFT very keen to take forward. Post meeting, work on actions discussed took place immediately to start closing these gaps. This will be a watching brief by the Governors to ensure that we are as inclusive as possible to the communities and patients that we serve.

There have been further ICB meetings which have explored wider local issues. It does feel as though the ICB are now listening to Governors and are keen to support the proposed suggestion of an in-person Governor Conference.

Governors have recently received a further presentation on Discharge with SFHFT. It was incredibly helpful to have this update and compare the progress made since the Spring presentation on this subject.

A small group of Governors have formed a Governor fund raising group to support SFHFT charitable funds. We are seeking to host a concert in the summer with ticket sales going towards the charity.

Governor elections are due to take place in the Spring. There is a need to elect to 10 positions on the Trust's Council of Governors (eight Public Governor elections and two for Staff Governors). Voting will be done electronically this time so discussions are being had as to how we can support patients, carers, the community who may struggle with this to vote.

My thanks to all Governors for their continued commitment, time and energy again this quarter.

You all add value.