

# Harrogate and District

NHS Foundation Trust

## Extra Council of Governors' Meeting

Minutes of the extra Council of Governors' meeting held on Friday, 17 April 2015 at 14:30 hrs in the Boardroom, Trust HQ, Harrogate District Hospital

**Present:**

- Mrs Sandra Dodson, Chairman
- Mrs Carol Cheesebrough, Staff Governor
- Mrs Cath Clelland, Public Governor
- Mrs Angie Colvin, Corporate Affairs and Membership Manager
- Mrs Liz Dean, Public Governor
- Mrs Emma Edgar, Staff Governor
- Mr Andrew Forsyth, Interim Head of Corporate Affairs
- Mrs Sally Margerison, Staff Governor
- Miss Polly McMeekin, Deputy Director of Workforce and Organisational Development
- Mr Peter Pearson, Public Governor
- Mr Andy Robertson, Public Governor
- Dr Daniel Scott, Staff Governor
- Rev. Dr Mervyn Willshaw, Deputy Chair of Governors/Public Governor
- Mrs Fiona Wilson, Staff Governor
- Dr Jim Woods, Stakeholder Governor

### 1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Mr Michael Armitage, Public Governor, Dr Sally Blackburn, Public Governor, Dr Sarah Crawshaw, Stakeholder Governor, Cllr John Ennis, Stakeholder Governor, Mrs Jane Hedley, Public Governor, Mrs Pat Jones, Public Governor and Mrs Joanna Parker, Stakeholder Governor.

Mrs Dodson confirmed that Mrs Edgar would be representing the vote of two Governors who had been involved in the recruitment process; Ms Pamela Allen, Public Governor and Mrs Joyce Purkis, Public Governor. On this basis, Mrs Dodson confirmed the meeting was quorate and Mrs Jane Hare, Public Governor was not required to join the meeting via telephone conference.

In response to Mrs Dodson's request for any declarations of interest, Mr Robertson confirmed he knew the female candidate who was interviewed for the position.

### 2. Discussion on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee

The paper detailing the Non-Executive Director appointment process had been circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

Mrs Dodson confirmed that 41 applications had been received and following an informal discussion with 14 long-listed candidates, four candidates were short-listed for interview however, one candidate withdrew for personal reasons.

Mrs Dodson was pleased to report that the Nominations Committee was in a position to make a recommendation of appointment to the Council of Governors and highlighted that the Governors on both the interview panel and focus group were unanimous in the choice of Mr McLean as the appointed candidate. The Council was also asked to note that the two remaining candidates were also appointable.

Mrs Dodson asked if anyone had any further questions, in particular from those Governors present who had been involved on the interview panel and focus group.

Mr Robertson asked what strengths Mr McLean would bring to the Board of Directors.

Mrs Dean, Mrs Edgar, Mr Pearson, Dr Scott and Rev Dr Willshaw talked about a variety of reasons why Mr McLean was the overall candidate of choice, highlighting his commercial and educational experience and how he demonstrated 'outside of the box' thinking, a strong personality, and challenging and innovative behaviour in both his interview and the focus group. On behalf of Ms Allen and Mrs Purkis, Mrs Edgar also added the comment that Mr McLean would add value and strengthen the current Board of Directors.

Miss McMeekin agreed with the comments made by Governors.

Mr Robertson asked a further question regarding areas of development for Mr McLean.

Again, Governors involved in both the interview panel and focus group commented that Mr McLean would have a lot to learn in the NHS however, he had demonstrated his awareness of this. Mrs Dodson clarified that his background in law demonstrated his ability to assimilate information.

Dr Scott raised the discussion about succession planning of Non-Executive Directors to the role of Chairman. Both Mrs Dodson and Rev Dr Willshaw emphasised the importance of succession planning and said that, although not all Non-Executive Directors would want to go on to the position of Chairman, that all Non-Executive Directors appointed would be expected to have the core skills to grow in that direction.

Finally, Mrs Dodson confirmed that Ms Hickey, Chairman of Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust, carrying out the external assessor role on the interview panel, was in agreement with the recommendation to appoint Mr McLean.

There were no further questions or discussion and therefore Mrs Dodson moved to the recommendation of the Nominations Committee.

**3. Decision by the Council of Governors on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee**

Mrs Dodson confirmed the Nomination Committee recommended the appointment of Mr Neil McLean to the position of Non-Executive Director for three years from 1 May 2015.

The Council of Governors were unanimous in their approval of the appointment.

Mrs Dodson thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

UNCONFIRMED