

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

MONDAY 20 JULY 2015

Title:	GOVERNORS REVIEW & DEVELOPMENT – ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS
Responsible Officer:	David Burbridge, Director of Corporate Affairs
Contact:	Sarah Snowden, Corporate Affairs & Governor Liaison Manager, Ext 14323

Purpose:	To consider the effectiveness of the Council of Governors and identify any training needs.
Confidentiality Level & Reason:	N/A
Medium Term Plan Ref:	
Key Issues Summary:	<p>In common with the Board of Directors, it is important that the Council of Governors carries out a collective evaluation of its effectiveness as a body (including considering whether it is fulfilling its statutory duties), and identify any weaknesses that need to be addressed.</p> <p>The evaluation process will be led by the Chair in their capacity as Chair of the Council of Governors, but all Governors are encouraged to participate, both in the gathering of information on the Council's performance and on its interpretation.</p> <p>A discussion at the meeting on 20 July 2015 will be informed by a 360 degree evaluation process consisting of a questionnaire to be completed by all Governors and input from the Chair, Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Affairs, Corporate Affairs & Governor Liaison Manager and the Senior Independent Director, with a view to an action plan being developed to address any issues, to be taken forward under the guidance of the Governors Development Group.</p>
Recommendations:	The Council of Governors is asked to consider the feedback from the questionnaire shown in Appendix 1 and identify any areas that may be improved upon.
Approved by : David Burbridge	Date: 9 July 2015

APPENDIX 1

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unable to answer	Comments
The Council of Governors							
The Council of Governors has the right the mix of skills, experience, knowledge and diversity in the context of the council’s statutory duties and challenges facing the Trust.							
The governors have been equipped by the Trust with the skills and knowledge they require as governors.							
The Council of Governors carries out its work in accordance with the values of the Trust.							
The Council works together as a unit and in accordance with the tone set by the Chair.							
Key relationships on the Council work well, particularly between the Chair and governors							
Individually, governors are effective. Each governor makes a telling contribution.							[NB – please do not identify individual governors]
The Council's committees and working groups are effective, they operate well within their terms of reference and in terms of how they are connected with the Council.							
The Council communicates with, listens and responds to members and other stakeholders effectively.							

Processes and information							
The processes in place to ensure sufficient debate for major decisions or contentious issues are effective.							
The general information provided on the Trust and its performance is good.							
The quality of papers and presentations to the Council of Governors is good.							
The quality of discussions around individual issues is good.							
The Corporate Affairs and Communications teams are effective in supporting governors.							
Receiving the annual report and accounts							
Governors are able to understand the key points in the Trust's report and accounts.							
Governors can ask relevant questions on the report and accounts.							
Constitution							
The Council of Governors understands their role in approving, with the Board of Directors, any amendments to the constitution.							
When the constitution has been amended, the governor approval process has been efficient and effective.							

Influencing strategy							
Governors have been involved in strategy development sessions.							
There are examples of strategy being informed by the input of governors.							
Non-NHS income							
The Council of Governors understands the principal purpose of the Trust (the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England) and its need to satisfy itself that proposals in the forward plan do not interfere with the fulfilment of this principal purpose to any significant extent.							
The Council of Governors understands that it is required to approve increases to non-principal purpose income (if increasing by 5% or more of total trust income).							
Representing the interests of members and the public							
Governors apprise themselves of the views of members and the public and represent their interests.							
There are examples of governors using this information to question directors on the Trust's performance.							
There are examples of governors using this information to support the development of strategy.							
Governors feed back information about the Trust to members and the public.							

Approving transactions							
Governors are aware of their role in approving or not approving significant transactions (as defined in the constitution), mergers, acquisitions, separations and dissolutions.							
Governors are able to analyse a business case identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the case.							
Holding non-executive directors to account							
The Council of Governors have agreed a process and dialogue with the non-executive directors and the Trust to enable it to carry out its general duty to hold the non-executive directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the board of directors.							
The remit of that role – the performance of the Board of Directors as distinct from the performance of the Trust – is well understood.							
The process and dialogue meets the needs of the Council of Governors.							
Governors can identify the key performance issues facing the Trust.							
Governors can ask relevant questions regarding performance reports.							
Governors are effective in reviewing the way in which the Non-Executive Directors obtain assurance.							
Governors ask relevant questions of the Non-Executive Directors about challenge at meetings of the board.							