

Council of Governors' Meeting: 5th November 2015**C****Proposal to Appoint Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire as a Partner
Governor Organisation****Situation**

This paper sets out the proposal for, and the rationale behind, the appointment of Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN) as a Partner Governor organisation on the Council of Governors.

The appointment of VIN requires an amendment to NHFT's Constitution. Any amendment to the Constitution requires the approval of both the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors.

Background

There are currently 7 Partner Governor seats on the Council of Governors. One of these seats is currently allocated to the University of Leicester. Following the retirement of Professor Richard Baker, the University of Leicester has not taken up the invitation to nominate a successor. The purpose of this paper is therefore to recommend that VIN is offered a Partner Governor seat, thereby replacing the University of Leicester on the Council of Governors.

Assessment

The proposal to appoint VIN has already been discussed and supported at the Membership & Governance and Chairs Sub Groups at their meetings on the 9th and 14th October 2015 respectively.

The appointment of VIN also enjoyed strong support amongst Board colleagues and the proposal will be formally considered by the Board of Directors at its 25th November 2015 meeting (subject to Council of Governors' prior endorsement).

VIN has produced a briefing paper (attached) which provides an insight into the organisation and its own rationale for wishing to become a Partner Governor. VIN's Board of Trustees confirmed its desire to join NHFT's Council of Governors at its 21st October 2015 meeting.

Recommendations

The Council of Governors is asked to:

- Endorse the appointment of VIN as a Partner Governor organisation in place of the University of Leicester
- Note that the appointment is subject to the Board of Directors also endorsing the proposal at its 25th November 2015 meeting

Paul Martin

Deputy Director, Corporate Affairs

29th October 2015

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) consideration of Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire to be included in the NHFT governance

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN) provides the business support, sector lead and sector representation for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE).

In this role VIN has a network of contacts across the 2,500 organisations that make up the VCSE sector in Northamptonshire, through a number of mechanisms, including face to face, phone, email, upto date news and promoting and developing good practice, with the sector and with cross sector partners.

VIN also hosts Commsortia, the Countywide consortium for VCSE organisations, which provides a mechanism for sector organisations to work together and bid for multifaceted, large contracts that individually organisations would not be able to deliver.

Across the county VIN networks with other existing partnerships and consortiums and encourages organisations to develop partnership working as a positive way forward to deliver support and services to communities, to share good practice and build a robust sector.

As the infrastructure support organisation VIN has a key role in working with partner organisations, stakeholders and in identifying new and key areas for development for the sector, which includes NHFT.

VIN has had a long association with NHFT, through its LINK contract, working with the NHFT engagement team and service user groups. More recently through recent developments around Health and Wellbeing contracts, VIN has sought to have a positive input into the development of the NHFT service propositions.

These relationships have built with the senior level contacts currently providing a means of discussion and the formal inclusion of VIN in the NHFT governance arrangements would provide both parties with a regular structured arrangement that enables VIN to provide NHFT with a strong link to the sector and the development of sector strategy which would enable and support the building and delivery of NHFT strategy and plans.

In addition to the infrastructure support role, VIN has a lead role in promoting and enabling volunteering across the County, providing the strategic lead and management of volunteering support, which is a growing and critical part of sector organisations delivery and lifeblood.

Similarly for statutory sector and private sector volunteering is of growing importance, and VIN has and does provide expertise to support the enabling of volunteering for individuals and organisations.

VIN also delivers some volunteer based services to the community, which will continue as part of the VIN strategy to deliver benefit to the community and demonstrating that we do not simply tell others what is good practice but do it ourselves. (Similarly in leading, and providing the support for, the development of Commsortia). The volunteering schemes include the Car Scheme which takes less able patients to appointments, our Garden scheme which uses less able young people to landscape gardens of vulnerable people and a service to give help to people with additional support needs to find a volunteering placement.