

Council of Governors' meeting: 14th January 2014**F4****Reports from the Corporate Assessment Group****1. Corporate Assessment Group - 20th November 2013**

General items for Governor information resulting from above meeting based the main Board meeting on 30th October 2013:

1. Patient story presented to the main board on 30th October 2013 was discussed and noted. However questions were raised as to what happens after these stories are presented, what learning can be achieved by the Board and what actions are deemed suitable in respect of these stories. It was also suggested that a similar story could be presented at future Council of Governors' meetings.
2. Recent publicity concerning minimum staffing levels being established on hospital wards etc., plus a similar effect on staffing levels/workloads on community staff. The meeting was informed that this matter is being looked into by the Trust, but further Governor involvement would be through the Staff & Resources Sub Group in due course.
3. Board documents concerning the Care Quality Commission's Inspection Report on St Mary's' Human Resources Workplan for 2013-2014, Monitor Risk Assessment Framework and Financial/Performance, were discussed and can be picked up on by Governor Sub Groups as required.
4. The agenda from the main board's private agenda was presented and discussed with explanations from Paul Martin, Company Secretary.

Documents concerning the main Board on 30th October 2013 can be acquired from the Foundation Trust Office.

2. Corporate Assessment Group - 16th December 2013

General items for Governor information resulting from the above meeting based on the main Board meeting of 27th November.

I would advise that Ian Watts and Andrew Bailey were present at this Board meeting, and reported to the CAG meeting their observations on my behalf.

1. The patient story was presented to the main board, and a number of relevant and appropriate questions were raised. However members of CAG asked the question as to why so far no actual patient/service user had not been present at the board presentations, however it was equally recognised the potential difficulty such patients could experience.
2. The Chief Executive's report to the Board continued to re-iterate the challenges to core business not only from competitors but the challenges to be faced from the CCG's, County Council and the two acute hospitals.
3. The Nursing, Quality & Development report was considered, and note was made that the Board had considered the document over-full. Members of CAG however wished to receive further clarification and assurance in respect of children/young persons safeguarding, school nursing & NCC re-organisational changes and would make a request that a special Governor briefing be set up so that appropriate executives from the NCC set out their plans for the forthcoming year and how this would also relate to the Trust's children's services and safeguarding.
4. Note has been made of the forthcoming changes to the monthly Trust Board to predominantly bi-monthly and the knock-on effect of reducing the frequency of CAG meetings, the extended delay in discussing main board papers from 2-3 weeks after the current board to up to 7 weeks by CAG. The Board's Finance & Performance Committee will meet bi-monthly. Currently either the Chair and/or the Vice Chair of our Finance, Planning & Performance (FP&P) Sub Group attend occasionally as observers to these meetings, but a suggestion is to be made to the Chairman that more frequent attendances by the Lead Governor in addition to those of the FP&P Chair, would create a greater degree of openness & understanding of the procedures of the Finance & Performance committee, and we would remain assured that appropriate decision making is made by the Board.

Please address any queries to myself or the Trust Office on these two reports.

Michael Darling
Chair of Corporate Assessment Group
December 2013