

Council of Governors (In Public)

Item 10.5

Subject: Governor Elections & Update of Recent Governor Changes
Date of Meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2020
Prepared by: Gill Donnelly, Membership & Communications Officer
Presented by: Lucy Lavan, Director of Corporate Affairs

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to update the Council of Governors on recent changes within the Council of Governors and highlight the plans for the forthcoming Governor Elections.

A full timetable for this election process is provided within this report for the Council of Governors to note.

2. Background – Forthcoming Elections & Recent CoG Changes

The Trust will go out to election with thirteen seats this summer (breakdown detailed below). One of these seats is currently vacant as Matthew Greene, Staff Governor – Non Clinical left the Trust for a new role on 7th February 2020.

The LHCH constitution states a vacancy can only remain vacant for a maximum of six months. As the last Staff Governor – Non Clinical election was uncontested there is no option to invite a highest polling candidate to join the Council of Governors to fill this seat. The summer election timetable will commence on 6th May 2020 to ensure an election is called within three months of this vacancy arising. This approach is in line with Annex 5, Paragraph 10, Item 10.1 which states:

“Where the vacancy arises amongst the elected Governors, the Council of Governors shall be at liberty either:

10.1 to call an election within three months to fill the seat for the remainder of that term of office”

Constituency/Class	Current Governor(s)	Number of Seats
Public - Merseyside	Terence Comerford* Dorothy Burgess Elaine Holme Trevor Wooding** Ruth Rogers	5
Public - Cheshire	Mark Allen Peter Brandon	2

Public – North Wales	Peter Wareham*** Dusty Rhodes	2
Staff – Non Clinical	Sharon Hindley Vacant	2
Staff – AHP, Technical and Scientific	Dot Price	1
Staff – Registered & Non Registered Nurses	Lynn Trayer Dowell****	1

Please note:

All of the above listed existing governors are eligible to re-stand for election for a three year term of office and their current term off offices end at the Combined Council of Governors and Annual Members Meeting on 22nd September 2020.

*Terence Comerford commenced the role of Public Governor – Merseyside on 11th February 2020 as the next highest polling candidate in the most recent election following the recent resignation of John Black.

**Trevor Wooding is the Senior Governor and is eligible for one more term in this role. All Governors are welcomed to consider the role of Senior Governor (role description within 10.4a) and to have an informal chat with Neil Large, Chair if they are interested in this. A formal recommendation as to the successor will be brought to the Council of Governors meeting on 22nd September 2020 following completion of the election process.

***Peter Wareham has commenced the role of Public Governor – North Wales as the next highest polling candidate in the most recent election. This is following the resignation of Ron Smith from the role on 23rd January 2020.

****Lynn Trayer Dowell is due to step down from the role in August 2020 and therefore her seat will become vacant from this date.

3. Election Timetable

Electoral Reform Services (ERS) was appointed to act as the independent electoral administrator for the forthcoming election process. The elections have been held in accordance with the Model Election Rules contained within our Trust Constitution.

Please see the below timetable outlining the on-going election process:

Stage	Date
Notice of Election published by the Trust and Electoral Reform Services (ERS), the electoral administrators. Nomination forms, for candidates wishing to stand for election as a Governor, will be made available from	Wednesday 6th May 2020

this date.	
The deadline that nominations by candidates should be received by Electoral Reform Services (ERS)	Friday 5th June 2020
A summary of all valid nominated candidates will be published	Monday 8th June 2020
The final date candidates can withdraw their nominations	Wednesday 10th June 2020
Uncontested report is published	Thursday 11 th June 2020
Notice of Poll is published	Friday 26th Jun 2020
Voting packs distributed by ERS to members as appropriate (by constituency/class)	Monday 29th June 2020
Closing date for election	Wednesday 22nd July 2020
Declaration of results	Thursday 23rd July 2020

3. Recommendations

The Council of Governors is requested to:

- Support and note the proposed election timetable commencing on 6th May 2020.
- Note the succession plan for the role of Senior Governor.

Appendix 10.5a

Role Specification for Senior Governor:

The Role:

The Senior Governor will:

- Be the named governor for direct contact by NHS Improvement
- Chair such parts of the meetings of the Council of Governors (CoG) which cannot be chaired by the person presiding (Chairman or Deputy Chair or Non Executive Director) due to a conflict of interest in relation to the business being discussed.

The Person:

To be able to fulfil this role effectively the Senior Governor will

- Have the confidence of governor colleagues and members of the Board of Directors
- Have ability to influence
- Be able to present a well-reasoned argument
- Be committed to the success of the Foundation Trust
- Have access to an email account

Eligibility and Terms of Office:

The Senior Governor will

- be appointed from amongst the 14 elected public Governors
- hold office for a three year period or until their term ends, whichever is sooner;

At the end of the term, there will be an open process for nomination of a new senior governor, but this does not prohibit the incumbent from seeking a further term/s.