

Council of Governors (in Public)

Item 8.2

Subject: By Election for North Wales
Date of meeting: 4th December 2017
Prepared by: Lucy Lavan, Director of Corporate Affairs
Presented by: Lucy Lavan, Director of Corporate Affairs

1.0 Executive Summary

The composition of the Council of Governors includes three seats for North Wales, two of which are vacant. Historically the Trust has found it difficult to identify prospective governors for this constituency and no candidates were nominated at the 2017 election.

As the next elections will not be held until Summer 2017 (and hence the vacancies will continue for more than 6 months), the Trust will need to call a by-election for the North Wales constituency.

This paper recommends that the Council of Governors supports proposals to try to identify suitable candidates and to give notice of election at a suitable time before the end of March 2018. If this fails then consideration will be given to reviewing the composition of the Council of Governors.

2.0 Background

The Trust put considerable effort into attracting candidates for the 2017 Governor elections and this was successful for Cheshire and Merseyside but not for North Wales. This is thought to be primarily due to the geographical distance from LHCH and age demographic of the Trust's patient population.

Work has continued and individual Governors have also been encouraged to identify suitable candidates via their personal networks.

Two possible candidates have now been identified and invited to come to the Trust in the coming weeks to meet with the Chairman and Director of Corporate Affairs. If following these meetings, it appears that a by-election would be successful in receiving nominations, then the ERS (Electoral Reform Services) will be commissioned to administer an election process in accordance with the Trust's election rules.

It is very much hoped that a second election process will be successful but if vacancies remain in North Wales then the Council of Governors and Board of Directors will be asked to consider a review of the composition of the Council of Governors. In order to inform a possible review, the Membership & Communications Sub Committee will be asked to analyse the Trust's patient and membership profiles and determine whether the current composition of governors is still representative (it is 9 years since the composition of public governors was originally set and it is possible that current patient demographics would warrant a change).

3.0 Recommendation

The Council of Governors is asked to :

- i) Support the calling of a by-election at a suitable time to be determined by the Chairman and Director of Corporate Affairs, but before 31.3.18
- ii) Request that individual Governors continue to seek potential governor candidates for North Wales through their personal networks
- iii) Request that the Membership and Communications Sub Committee reviews the patient and membership profiles to check that governor representation across the public constituency.