

Council of Governors (in Public) 2nd December

Item LHCHCoG2526_13b

Subject: Cheshire and Merseyside Governors Symposium
Date of Meeting: 19th September 2025 - Quaker Meeting Hall Liverpool

Prepared by: Ian Ferguson, Public Governor – Merseyside
Kim Carnes, Public Governor - Merseyside
Viv Carr, Public Governor – Cheshire
Dot Price, Staff Governor
Sharon Faulkner, Staff Governor
Lynsey Jackson, Staff Governor

Presented by: Ian Ferguson, Public Governor - Merseyside

Purpose of Report: To Note

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to give the Governors a summary of the very first Cheshire and Merseyside Governors Symposium. This was the first time that any such meeting had been held for Governors in the NHS.

Overall, a very useful meeting to hear from some different external speakers and to network with governors from other trusts.

The agenda was split as follows.

- a. The importance of the Governors role – ***Isla Wilson Chair Cheshire & Wirral NHS Trust***
- b. The road to reform – the governor's perspective, Integrated Care Systems and how they work. ***Emma Stockwell, Hill Dickinson (slides attached)***
- c. Living the role of the Governor from responsibility to impact - Facilitated discussion with Staff, Lead, Service User Carer, Youth Governors.
- d. Public Health 10 Year Plan – how it effects systems and trusts and considers health inequalities across Cheshire and Merseyside ***Ian Ashworth and Clare Baker (slides attached)***

Overall, I found the session very useful and especially around how to drive engagement and involvement with Governors and Members from the showcase sessions. The NHSP also offers a lot of sessions which look very interesting for some of the Governors to attend and share their findings back with the rest. Consensus of opinion from Governors present was a very useful meeting and one that if possible should be repeated.

The presentation slides are [available here](#).

2. Sessions

2.1 Importance of the Governors Role (no slides)

Passionate support of the Governors role as second level assurance to the operation of any trust and the need to continually challenge the NEDs in how they are ensuring there is the correct level of assurance from the Exec teams.

2.2 Hill Dickinson presentation

A lot of detail on the creation of the ICS and ICB but presenter ran out of time to cover the critical piece in my opinion as to how the role of the Governor may change with the 10-year plan. Useful context especially for new Governors.

2.3 Facilitated conversation with selection of governors.

Key takeaways for all governors, be curious, ask questions, raise concerns from your constituents, request simpler reports and in everything ask how the Patient First approach is being upheld. Ensure you play that key second level assurance role. The interaction with lived experience was particularly powerful, especially the endorsement of younger governors having a voice. The young ex-patient governor at Alder Hey was a shining example of meaningful youth representation in governance.

2.4 Public Health 10-year Plan

The presentations on public health were excellent, aligning well with the NHS 10-Year Plan. They effectively raised awareness around prevention and community health strategies. There was a strong emphasis on digital solutions to reduce duplication and improve patient safety. A top priority highlighted was the implementation of a single electronic patient record across the group model.

Ian Ashworth had one request of all governors which was to encourage all trust staff to get the flu jab and stop smoking and to encourage others to do the same where appropriate.

These insights underscore the importance of inclusive leadership, proactive public health strategies, and integrated digital systems in driving forward our shared goals.