

**From: Norbert Lieckfeldt, Corporate Governance Manager**

**To: Council of Governors**

**Date: 9 July 2020**

**Subject: Council of Governor elections 2020**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To provide the Council with information about the planned process for the Council of Governors elections 2020

### **2. Background**

There will be ten public or staff governor vacancies in four constituencies at 31 October 2020:

1. City of London: one vacancy (currently unfilled)
2. Hackney: two vacancies (Jummy Otaiku, Daniel Victorio)
3. Luton: two vacancies (Jamu Patel, Paula Williams)
4. Staff: five vacancies (Zara Hosany, Julian Mockridge, Sheila O'Connell, Caroline Ogunsola, Mary Phillips)

All but one of the governors whose terms end at 31 October 2020 can stand for re-election. Staff Governor and Deputy Chair Zara Hosany's third term ends on 31 October.

### **3. Covid-19 Situation**

Guidance from NHS Providers states "There is nothing to stop Trusts recommencing elections subject to having resources in place to support the elections and being confident of the required level of participation and turnout."

As the ballot will be carried out exclusively by postal or electronic voting there will be no concern about personal safety.

The interactive workshops for prospective governors (dates to be confirmed) will be offered virtually by videoconference or via telephone discussion. Written information will also be made available to candidates.

### **4. Participation**

As in the last years we will make additional efforts to secure nominations and contested elections and to this end we are reviewing and strengthening the communications plan. However, as nine out of ten governors can stand for re-elections, we are also hopeful that most if not all of those will consider standing again.

1. We currently have no representation for the City of London. The Trust has 49 public members in the City and we are working with the Communications team to prepare press releases to ensure we have nominations. We will also send a direct mailing to our members in the City.
2. Last year we have made special efforts in Hackney as we have not had contested elections in the Borough for some time, despite a significant membership (1,739). This has been

successful with 4 candidates for one vacancy in 2019. We also have two current excellent governors and are hopeful they will decide to stand again.

3. Our membership in Luton is 1,018. We are confident we can secure a contested election and will work with the communications team towards that end. We also have two current excellent Luton governors and are hopeful they will stand again.
4. There will be five vacancies for staff governor (out of nine staff governors on the Council). We are currently working with the communications team how we can use the intranet and staff updates to raise awareness of the role of staff governor on the Council.

In 2019, we secured five candidates for two vacancies and I am hopeful we can have a contested election, especially as most staff governor can stand for re-election. We would also encourage staff governors to speak to their colleagues and encourage them to stand (and/or vote) in this year's elections.

Special efforts will also be made to ensure we can increase staff participation in the elections which has dropped last year.

## 5. Timetable

### ELECTION STAGE

Notice of Election / nomination open	Wednesday, 15 Jul 2020
Nominations deadline	Wednesday, 12 Aug 2020
Summary of valid nominated candidates published	Thursday, 13 Aug 2020
Final date for candidate withdrawal	Monday, 17 Aug 2020
Electoral data to be provided by Trust	Thursday, 20 Aug 2020
Notice of Poll published	Thursday, 3 Sep 2020
Voting packs despatched	Friday, 4 Sep 2020
Close of election	Tuesday, 29 Sep 2020
Declaration of results	Wednesday, 30 Sep 2020

## 6. Action

The Council of Governors is asked to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the report.