

**From:** Zara Hosany, Deputy Chair of Council of Governors

**To:** Council of Governors

**Date:** 23 March 2017

**Subject:** Governor Open Forum proposals

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## **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The seek Council's approval to proposals recommended by the Governor Open Forum.

## **2.0 Governor Open Forum proposals**

2.1 The following proposals are recommended for approval from the discussion at the Governor Open Forum:

### **a. Equality and diversity**

Following on from previous Council discussions on Equality and Diversity, many Governors expressed interest to be involved and join the Trust's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy Implementation Group. As involvement and feedback of each Governor is valuable, the Governors who attended the Governor Open Forum on 23 February 2017 recommend that rather than the Council electing just two of their number to join the Group, that the Governor Open Forum receives a presentation on equality and diversity twice a year.

### **b. Governor and Non-Executive tenures**

In order to enable stability at a time of great NHS system change and challenge and to retain skills and deepen knowledge of Governors, it is proposed that Governors canvass members in their constituencies for their support to allow Governors to be able to serve three three-year terms instead of two three-year terms as it is the current restriction in the Trust Constitution. If the Council agrees, and in accordance with section 43 of the Constitution, this change will require amendment of the Constitution and subsequent approval of the revised Constitution by members at the Annual Members Meeting/ Annual General Meeting in October 2017. In line with this, Non- Executive Director tenures may also be aligned.

In addition to the above, the Constitution could benefit from a review to ensure that it is contemporaneous with legislative and corporate governance changes; e.g. adding the Freedom to Speak Up arrangements, reviewing eligibility criteria in line with other similar Trusts, etc.

## Agenda Item 7

If changes and review of the Constitution are agreed, the proposed amendments will be first approved by the Board (June or September 2017 meeting) and the Council (July or September meeting) before being presented to members for approval at the AMM/AGM in October 2017.

### 3.0 Action being requested

3.1 The Council are requested to **RECEIVE** the report and:

- **APPROVE** the recommendation that the Governor Open Forum receives twice a year a presentation on Equality and Diversity.
- **APPROVE** the recommendation to allow Governors to be able to serve three three-year terms and consider aligning Non- Executive Director tenures. A broader review of the Constitution will be carried out.