

3. Council of Governors update

- 3.1. The Council of Governors met on 14 November 2024 where I was delighted to welcome eight new Governors with the start of the new term of office on 1 November; I've had the pleasure of meeting our new Governors in an informal session online before the meeting. We also held a heartfelt and poignant farewell recognition to honour our six departing Governors; it was a bittersweet moment filled with sadness at their departure but with immense pride in their contributions.
- 3.2. In the operational update, Kevin Curnow our Chief Finance Officer presented on the progress of achieving our financial targets in 2024/25 through our Going Further, Going Together programme.
- 3.3. This was followed by brief presentations from the Non-Executive Director chairs of three Board committees - Sue Lees, Donna Kinnair and Deborah Wheeler – who shared how they seek and receive assurance that saving projections are financially realistic and, as far as possible, are not achieved by cutting important services or compromising staff wellbeing or the quality of service.
- 3.4. The Trust is mindful of avoiding potentially disproportionate impact on colleagues with protected characteristics, such as women, disabled staff and those from an ethnic minority or global majority background. Deborah also highlighted the important and constructive role of our staffside representatives in this process.
- 3.5. This meeting's priority theme was Access to Services, and I was very pleased we could hear from the Tower Hamlets Barnsley Street Neighbourhood Mental Health Centre pilot project. This project, based on the Trieste model, is a revolutionary redesign of services for our service users, offering 24/7 access to multi-disciplinary support without the need for formal referral. The service focus, as defined by our service users, was "community, connection and freedom". Leah White (Clinical Director for Adult Mental Health TH) and Day Njovana (Tower Hamlets Borough Director) talked Governors through the ethos and practice of the proposed service which has a launch date in January 2025.
- 3.6. In discussion, Governors considered the sustainability of the new model; what success would look like from the point of our service users; and what opportunities there might be to open services to communities which we have struggled to serve in the past.
- 3.7. In the following group discussions, Governors discussed the question: "Are there barriers to our services, and how can we minimise them?".
- 3.8. In the business section, Governors agreed to commence the recruitment process for three new NED positions as sadly the terms of three of our NEDs (Aamir Ahmad, Anit Chandarana and Sam Everington) are coming to an end in late 2025.
- 3.9. Governors also ratified the results of the committee membership elections and received a brief verbal update on the progress of the Membership Engagement Plan, implementation of which has been gathering steam under Tina Bixby's energetic leadership.