

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

REAPPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

1. INTRODUCTION

Governors will be aware that it is one of their statutory functions to appoint the Chairman. A Nominations Committee was established for this purpose and its recommendations are brought to the full Council for review and ratification.

The present Chairman, Mr Kingsley Smith, was appointed in September 2007 with a three year term of office, which hence expires in September 2010. It is therefore timely to consider the reappointment of Mr Smith.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST FOR REAPPOINTMENT

In a letter dated 10th June 2010, Mr Smith expressed to the Chair of the Nominations Committee his interest in being reappointed as Chairman of the Trust.

In this letter, Mr Smith proposed that any extension to his term of office should be the subject of an annual review, based upon agreed personal and corporate objectives. Governors will see from agenda item 9(i) "Chairman's Appraisal" that such objectives are now in place for 2010/11.

Mr Smith's letter also contained a competency self-assessment, which set out Mr Smith's views on his role in the development of

- the Trust's vision
- identification of key challenges and risks
- developing and sustaining governance
- implementation of key projects such as eRecord
- developing and nurturing key contacts (both organisational and political)
- and enhancing and promoting the Newcastle "brand".

3. VIEWS OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Following review of the Chairman's letter and self-assessment, the Nominations Committee came to a set of views, as follows.

Over the last three years the Trust has consistently been very successful, being assessed independently by the Healthcare Commission (now Care Quality Commission) as "excellent" for the quality of its services and use of resources. This success has arisen from a powerful team effort from the Board, Governors and the staff of the Trust. Ultimately, however, the "buck" stops with the Chairman

and Chief Executive and the strength of leadership that they have shown and the effective way they have worked together has been a key factor in this success.

The next three to four years will be another major period of challenge in terms of the new government and its significant economic restraints and hence the need to deal with a reduction in income of some £80 million. The Chairman will need to make a major impact and be a great strength to the Trust in dealing with these issues.

It would be appropriate in these circumstances for the position of the Chairman to be reviewed at the end of each year, taking into account how well he had achieved the goals that had been set and the success of the Trust in meeting its major challenges.

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Nominations Committee commends to the Council of Governors the following proposals:

that i) Mr Smith has his term of office extended initially by one year, to 21st September 2011 ii) that any subsequent extension should be based upon assessment of achievement of the agreed objectives for 2010/11 and iii) that the position is reviewed again in time to make a recommendation to the July 2011 meeting on the reappointment (or not) of the present Chairman.

Jane Donnelly
Chair – Nominations Committee
8th July 2010