

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

MEMBERS COUNCIL

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS COUNCIL

1. INTRODUCTION

An away day, to which all Governors were invited, was held on 23rd November 2007 and was well attended by Governors from each constituency.

This was the first of two such away days, with the second to be held on 30th January 2008. The objective of the two days was *“to form the Governors into a fully functioning body so that we make a meaningful and effective contribution – individually and as part of a team – to what each Executive Director is working to achieve and, therefore, corporately, to what the Trust is working to achieve”*.

2. CONTENT OF THE AWAYDAY

The Chairman, Mr Kingsley Smith, gave a presentation on ‘How the Trust Operates – The Big Picture’. He emphasised the freedoms and flexibilities open to NHS Foundation Trusts and the need to operate in a business-like manner and to adopt the features of successful businesses. In particular he highlighted that the “customer” should be the number one priority. He suggested that successful businesses have a clear vision statement focussed on achievement, supported by five or six aims, each underpinned by measurable priorities. All of these should be consistent with the organisation’s stated values. The vision, aims and objectives currently used in the Trust’s published documents were discussed, together with the mechanisms for achieving them and the challenges faced. This set the background for roundtable group work, in which participants were asked to debate the Trust’s vision, aims, objectives, priorities and values.

For the early afternoon session, Governors were joined by the Trust’s Chief Executive and Executive Directors (with Angela Dragone, Deputy Finance Director, standing in for Brian Steven), each of whom gave a brief presentation on their role and responsibilities. Kingsley Smith commented on the congruence between the responsibilities of the Executive Directors and the aims and priorities discussed in the morning session.

There was then a feedback session on the group work from the morning session, the output of which was captured on flip charts and is reproduced in Annex A attached.

Mrs Hargreave gave a presentation on governance and the role of Governors. She suggested that a more systematic and focussed approach to the role was required and that through this day and the second day’s event Governors should be able to begin to look to the future.

3. NEXT STEPS

The second away day, to be held on 30th January, will allow Governors to explore further their roles and responsibilities, in the context of the “big picture” and with an awareness of the roles and interests of the Executive Directors. It is proposed that the away day will open with a brief recap of the learning points from the first away day and then move into roundtable working to address in broad groupings the 17 roles already defined for Governors (some of which are statutory responsibilities).

The expected outcomes from the day include comparability of understanding of how the Trust functions and the role and relationship of Governors to the Board, identification of clear areas for future development, and a clustering of Governor activities around the functions of each of the Executive Directors. The Development Working Group will also produce a handbook for Governors, which will encapsulate the learning from the away days and also provide a gazetteer of useful reference material.

4. RECOMMENDATION

To receive the briefing and note the second away day to be held on 30th January.

Steven Reed
Trust Secretary
10th January 2008

GOVERNORS' AWAY DAY, 23rd NOVEMBER 2007

AGREED SUMMARY OF ROUNDTABLE WORK

VISION

- Quality care of patient (patient perspective)
- We will deliver excellent healthcare to the residents of Newcastle and beyond
- 'Trust our Trust'
- Innovative in clinical excellence
- National/international reputation

VALUES

- Highest quality of care – promptly, safely, sensitivity etc.
- We value patients personalised care and understanding
- Transparency, openness
- Communication
- Partners and stakeholders
- Staff and volunteers
- Compassionately and appropriately
- Personal development/standards

AIMS

- Promoting healthy living and lifestyle
- Regarded as best place to be treated/to work
- Achieve effective communications at all levels
- Judged excellent in use of resources
- Judged excellent in quality of care
- Putting patients and carers first
- Value and invest in staff

PRIORITIES

- Putting patients first
- Quality workforce
- Academic excellence
- Meeting performance targets
- Service improvement and modernisation
- Delivering IM&T strategy
- Review of service delivery, assessing risk – innovative solutions
- Safety
- Access in all forms (parking !)

CHALLENGES

- Funding (allocations)
- Geographical locations
- IM&T
- Common vision
- Ageing workforce
- Staff retention
- Influencing government (intervention)
- Unitary Payment for Transforming Newcastle Hospitals project
- Unified vision for health in the North East