

# ENGAGING GOVERNORS in recruiting a joint chair



**Ensuring the council of governors were informed, involved and engaged in recruiting a joint chair was vital as the East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) explored the process of this critical appointment.**

**Preparation included two years of engagement with the council on developing integrated care systems (ICS), the new statutory requirement on collaboration, and what this means for the governor role, mainly**

**through discussions at our strategy committee. Following discussions at council meetings, including ICS chairs' presentations and Q&A sessions, governors were well prepared for this crucial decision.**

**Transparency was demonstrated by discussions between the council and board on the appointment of a joint chair proposal with governors identifying their own key lines of enquiry (KLOE) as well as the board addressing each issue and providing assurance on each KLOE; the council approved the recruitment to a joint chair based on clear benefits for our service users and wider populations.**

**Keeping governors engaged was crucial to ensure effective collaboration between two trusts and councils with different ways of working, resulting in the successful appointment of a joint chair. Key elements included:**

- 1 During the 'hiatus' between advertising to interviews, stakeholder groups had regular and timely summary reports of key discussions and decisions made shared with joint nominated council members.**
- 2 Governor briefings sessions were held with: the recruitment agency, trust chair, chief executive, ICS chair, and a senior independent director.**
- 3 Sharing summary reports from each session with all governors.**
- 4 Joint nominated council members were invited to observe interview panel decision meeting discussions to provide assurance about the robustness of the process, prior to receiving appointment recommendations.**