



March 2020

Governor news

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter in 2020. As you know, we are in a time of unprecedented circumstances for all parts of the NHS, and the situation in the UK is changing daily. We are of course, working hard to provide your trusts with any support that we can during this difficult period.

This is also the first edition since the election of the majority Conservative Government. We will all be watching with interest the implementation of Government policy on the NHS. In this edition we include a summary for governors of the 2020/21 planning guidance for the NHS which gives an indication of the future direction. There are also features on other policy areas, blogs and updated materials including our induction toolkit for new governors.

Included in this edition:

- A summary for governors on the 2020/21 planning guidance
- A blog on our recent report and campaign on capital
- A blog on the new payment system for the NHS
- A briefing on the 2019 staff survey
- A blog from a group of freedom to speak up guardians
- An updated guide for governors on the annual report and accounts
- An update on our regional workshops for governors
- A link to our updated induction toolkit for new governors
- Updated information on our 2020 Governor Focus conference
- An update on our GovernWell training programme

Governor policy

Operational Planning and Contracting guidance 2020/21

This key annual document for both NHS providers and commissioners was published at the end of January 2020. It covers system planning, finance , operational performance and workforce. Julian Russell, Senior Research Analyst, provides [a succinct summary](#) of the guidance for governors.

Capital campaign

Last year we ran a campaign on capital and in February we published our full recommendations in [Rebuilding our NHS – why it's time to invest in a 21st century service](#), setting out the case for a vastly improved capital settlement for the health service and describing how it could work. David Williams, Senior Policy Advisor, provides [a blog](#) setting out the context and background to the report.

New payment system

Activity based or block contract systems of payment between NHS commissioners and providers have been seen as a barrier to more effective collaborative ways of working. A new “blended payment approach” is proposed by NHS England/NHS Improvement which is explained and analysed in [this blog](#) from Patrick Garratt, Policy Officer.

Staff Survey

Our trust members tell us that workforce is their biggest challenge and the annual staff survey provides an important indicator on how staff are feeling across a range of issues. The 2019 NHS Staff Survey results were published in February following the annual data collection exercise across all NHS trusts and foundation trusts late last year.

[Our briefing](#) summarises the key points at a national level, reflecting on the positive trends for providers in quality of management, staff recognition, pay and engagement between staff and senior leaders, as well as concerning findings regarding bullying, harassment and incidents of violence and discrimination at work. Governors are invited to compare this report with the survey findings in their own trust.

Freedom to speak up guardians

All trusts are required to have a freedom to speak up guardian role. This role can provide important assurance to governors about the culture of their organisation. [The enclosed blog](#) is written by guardians who have come together in a supervision group and provides a useful insight into the role.

The Annual Report and Accounts – A Guide for Governors

It is a statutory requirement for governors to receive the trusts annual report and accounts. We have now updated [our guide for governors on the annual report and accounts](#) with case studies from a variety of trusts.

Governor impact and information

Regional workshops

Our latest [regional workshop](#) for governors took place in Birmingham on 27 February when we welcomed 40 governors from trusts across the West Midlands.

Future regional workshops are currently being postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. For the most up to date information please [click here](#).

Induction Toolkit

We have just updated the [induction toolkit](#) on our website designed for trusts to use with newly appointed governors. The workbooks are provided for all governors to access. There is also a set of powerpoint slides for trusts to use alongside the workbooks in the local induction of their new governors.

Governor focus conference 2020

Bookings are now open for our annual Governor Focus conference, the leading free-to-attend event for NHS governors, giving them the chance to network and learn from their peers, hear from health leaders about issues directly impacting on their role and explore developments in the sector. It will take place on Tuesday 7th July at the Congress Centre in London. All foundation trusts will receive two free governor places up to 26th May after which bookings will be open on a first come first served basis.

Our governor showcase exhibition will be back in 2020, showcasing the exciting work and best practice of up to ten trusts. We are keen to hear from trusts about the work and impact of governors in the NHS and any creative ideas that will promote, inspire

and acknowledge their role. Applications for trusts to apply for a space in the exhibition are now open. Simply fill in an [application form](#) and return this to our [events team](#) by 28 April 2020. Full details about the showcase and how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

DBS checks

One of our member trusts recently asked us how many trusts undertake Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) checks for their governors. Each trust undertakes a risk assessment on the basis of what they are asking their governors to do. Thanks to all of those trusts that responded to our snap survey and we thought we would share the outcome in Governor Focus. A total of 55 trusts responded of which 37 confirmed that they do undertake these checks for governors and 18 do not.

Healthwatch 2018/19 annual report

In seeking to understand the views of members and the public governors are advised to link into their local Healthwatch. Each area of England has a local Healthwatch. [The 2018/19 annual report for national Healthwatch](#), which was published at the end of January, also contains some useful and relevant information.

GovernWell training

GovernWell, the national training programme for foundation trust governors, equips governors with the knowledge and skills they need to perform their role effectively. [The full calendar](#) of course dates for 2020-21 has been finalised, and you can [book on courses with bookings open](#), or [register your interest](#) for later dates in 2020/21.

Regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, we are taking our events as a case by case basis at the moment and following government and NHS advice. Our most up to date information on event cancellations can be found [here](#), and for any further questions please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).



To find out more visit our website, call 020 7304 6977 or email our [governor support team](#).



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