



December 20199

## Governor news

Welcome to the winter issue of our newsletter. The NHS was prominent as always in the recent general election campaign and we will be watching closely the commitments made for the NHS and social care in the upcoming queen's speech from the new Government. Please look out for updates on our website as the new cabinet is formed and the queen's speech is prepared.

It has been a busy year for NHS Providers and for the GovernWell and governor support programmes and we would like to wish all governors and the trust staff that work with governors a very happy Christmas and we look forward to working with you again in the new year.

In this edition:

- A summary of the chair and non-executive director frameworks from NHS Improvement
- A briefing for governors on the pensions issue currently exercising many trusts
- An article on the freedom to speak up index report recently published by the National Guardians Office
- An update on our regional workshops for governors
- A link to our jargon buster recently revised and specifically designed for governors
- Three governor profiles from three different trusts
- Information on our 2020 Governor Focus conference
- Announcement of our GovernWell training dates for the whole of 2020-21.

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## Governor policy

### Chair and Non-Executive Director frameworks

NHS Improvement published their frameworks on the role and remuneration of chairs and non-executive directors in September 2019. John Coutts, Governance Advisor, [provides a summary](#) on the key aspects of these documents for governors who are ultimately responsible for the appointment and remuneration of the chairs and non-executive directors.

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## Pensions

Tax implications on NHS pensions have resulted increasingly in senior staff taking retirement and senior clinicians being reluctant to undertake additional sessions or seeking to work on a part time basis. Leanora Volpe, Policy Officer, [provides a briefing](#) for governors on this issue of significant concern around Trust Board tables.

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## Freedom to Speak Up index report 2019

The National Guardians Office published a new report in October 2019 on a freedom to speak up index which monitors speaking up culture in the NHS based on four questions from the annual staff survey. Ella Fuller, Policy Advisor, [summarises the key aspects](#) of this report for governors. In our GovernWell training modules we encourage governors to seek third party sources of assurance and this report is such an example.

# Governor impact and information

## Regional workshops

Our most recent regional workshop took place on 16 September when we welcomed over 50 governor colleagues from across the London region. Our thanks to St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for hosting us and Gillian Norton, their Chair, for chairing the event. The day included NHS Providers' Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Ferelith Gaze, giving an update on national policy, NHS England and Improvement's Regional Director for London, David Sloman, setting out the vision for healthcare in the capital and CQC's National Professional Advisor, Gillian Hooper, giving an update on well led inspections and launching the new CQC guide for councils of governors. It also provided an opportunity to hear from representatives of East London NHS Foundation Trust about their service user engagement and people participation department, as well as the sharing of good practice by governors within the audience. Feedback from the event was very positive and we would like to thank everyone who attended for making it such a great day.

Our next round of regional workshops are being planned in the West Midlands, South West and South East. We will be announcing dates for 2020 early in the new year.

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## Jargon buster

We have updated the [jargon buster](#) on our website which explains acronyms and terms which governors may come across in their role. This will be particularly helpful to newly appointed governors so please ensure all of your colleagues have access to it.

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## Governor profiles

[Amanda Buss](#), public governor at Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, has now joined our Governor Advisory Committee, which provides oversight and feedback on our governor programmes.

[Ella Preston](#) is both a staff governor and a younger governor at Moorfields Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Her blog demonstrates the value of the staff governor role both for the individual and the trust.

Since the introduction of our effective chairing for governors course earlier this year [Olga Cecilia Farach](#), public governor at Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust, has become the first governor to complete all of the GovernWell modules. She explains the value of this training for her development as a governor.

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## Governor focus conference 2020

Please save the date for our annual [Governor Focus conference](#) being held on Tuesday 7 July 2020.

This is the leading free-to-attend event for NHS governors, providing 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. Our jam-packed, governor-specific programme will examine the sector through the lens of the governor. Once again we will be inviting trusts to apply to be part of our annual Governor showcase exhibition. More details, including how to book and the number of places available for each trust, will be available in early 2020.

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## 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 [register your interest](#).

[Click here](#) for our 2020-21 dates.

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## Upcoming courses

Core skills

[07 February 2020, London](#)

NHS Finance and business skills

[26 March 2020, London](#)

Accountability

[03 March 2020, Liverpool](#)

Recruitment

[04 February 2020, London](#)

Member and public engagement

[12 February 2020, Bristol](#)

[01 April 2020, London](#)

Effective questioning and challenge

[25 February 2020, Birmingham](#)

Effective chairing for governors

[11 March 2020, London](#)

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## In-house training

GovernWell training modules can be delivered exclusively for your council of governors, or a group of councils, with in-house training. Benefits include tailored content to meet your requirements, developing consistency across your council and relationship building. For further information, please contact Laura Ward.

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



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