



October 2020

Governor news

Welcome to the autumn issue of our newsletter, which brings together a range of resources to keep you informed on key policy issues, and update you on the GovernWell programme.

This edition covers:

- The £13.4 billion NHS debt write off
- The 20/21 NHS people plan
- The impact of COVID-19 on community health services
- Details on our upcoming Governor Focus conference
- Information on the elections for our Governor Advisory Committee
- A staff governor's perspective on the impact of coronavirus at her trust
- A governor's reflections on the GovernWell programme and details on our new governor effectiveness training offering

As ever, we hope you will find the information included helpful and informative, and welcome any feedback on the content to governors@nhsproviders.org.

Governor policy

[The NHS debt "write-off": Will providers be better off?](#)

In April the government announced a £13.4 billion debt write off, as part of a package of financial changes intended to help trusts respond effectively to the coronavirus pandemic. [In this article](#) David Williams, senior policy advisor, explains what this really means for providers.

Community network reports on the impact of COVID-19

In August the community network published a report on the impact of COVID-19 on community health services, and the key role these providers played in the response to the pandemic. [Here we summarise the findings.](#)

The NHS people plan: what's in the latest iteration for trusts?

Finn O'Dwyer-Cunliffe, policy advisor, [looks at the practical implications of the recently published people plan](#) for trusts, explains the key focus areas, analyses what is missing, and reflects on how governors can support in this context.

Governor impact and information

Governor focus conference 2020

This year our conference will take place virtually, over three consecutive days. Each day will feature a two hour session with the first commencing on Tuesday 3 November at 10:00am.

This free event will be an opportunity for governors to increase their understanding of national policy issues and share examples of good practice around governor working. We will strive to achieve engagement amongst peers using interactive tools on Zoom.

Each of the three sessions will include:

- a plenary presentation
- a governor showcase item from around the country
- breakout groups to facilitate discussion on key topics

Key speakers this year include Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers; Professor Joe Harrison, chief executive, Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Sarah Hughes, chief executive, Centre for Mental Health.

Trusts have been invited to book three governor places with one reserve. If this conference is of interest please discuss this opportunity with your trust secretary.

Governor Elections

Election of Foundation Trust governors to NHS Providers' Governor Advisory Committee

This autumn NHS Providers will be commencing its third election for governor members of its Governor Advisory Committee. The term of office is three years, and our current committee members will come to the end of their tenure in March 2021.

The Governor Advisory Committee (GAC)

The GAC is comprised of eight governors elected by our member trusts, and one chair who is an NHS Providers board member. The committee oversees our governor support work and provides valuable insight and advice on governor-specific issues.

For the past three years we have been fortunate to have a GAC that has added real value to our governor support programme. The consistently high satisfaction rates across all our products and services is testimony to that. We look forward to achieving an equally high performing committee following this election.

The election process

The election process will be managed by Civica Election Services (formally known as the Electoral Reform Service (ERS)) and we will be using electronic voting.

For planning purposes please note that a call for nominations will commence on 2 November 2020 and close on 18 December 2020.

Nominations will be sought for each of the following eight categories:

- an acute trust representative
- a mental health trust representative
- a community trust representative
- a patient/carer/service user representative
- an ambulance trust representative
- a public governor representative
- a staff governor representative
- a stakeholder governor representative

Our election rules state that each foundation trust can nominate only one governor for election and must choose which of the eight positions to stand for. These nominations will only be accepted from councils of governors via their trust secretary or chair.

New for this round is any governor standing must have a minimum of 12 months remaining in their tenure at 1 April 2021 to achieve stability.

Candidates will be asked to submit a biography/statement of no more than 250 words alongside their nomination form.

Voting papers will be issued on 5 January 2021. We will use electronic voting and the single transferable vote (STV) system.

The election will close at noon on 26 March 2021 and election results will be published in early April.

Have we got you contact details correct?

Before we formally embark on the election process in November, we are keen to ensure that we have an up to date contact list. If your organisation's chair, trust secretary or membership manager contacts have changed, or are going to change in the next six months, please let us know as soon as possible via governors@nhsproviders.org

Impact of coronavirus – a staff governor's reflection

Staff governor Pauline Garnett shares examples of how she and her trust responded to the unprecedented challenges of coronavirus, and [reflects on the ways in which governors have successfully adapted](#) to the situation.

"GovernWell training has been essential": a deputy lead governor's experience

As we approach the eight anniversary of the national training programme for governors, known as GovernWell, Dr Alex Till [reflects on his experience](#) of the initiative and the importance of training.

Council of Governors effectiveness surveys

Over the last year we have introduced effectiveness surveys for Councils of Governors backed up with a workshop for all governors. Mark Price, member development manager, [explains the process](#) and we hear from a trust that has been through the new offer.

LinkedIn group

We have established a new LinkedIn group for membership managers and governor support staff (please note, this is not accessible by governors themselves). This will provide an opportunity for networking, sharing practice and checking queries with colleagues. Please ensure that the relevant staff in your trust are aware of this and can join via [this link](#).

GovernWell training

View the dates below for the latest GovernWell events which are open for booking.

Accountability and holding to account
[20 October, Virtual](#)

Effective questioning and challenge
[18 November, Virtual](#)

Member and public engagement
[10 February, Newcastle](#)

Effective chairing for governors
[10 November, Virtual](#)

Core skills
[26 November, Virtual](#)
[1 December, London](#)

NHS Finance and business skills
[5 November, Virtual](#)

Recruitment: the governor role in non-executive appointments
[29 October, Virtual](#)

[View all upcoming dates](#)

[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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