

Title of report:	Lead Governor’s report
Presented to:	Annual Members’ Meeting 2024
On:	14 November 2024
Item purpose:	Information
Presented by:	Lead Governor
Prepared by:	Deputy Company Secretary

The purpose of this annual report is to aid us to ensure that we as a Council of Governors are keeping you, our members, informed as to how we are fulfilling our statutory duties.

Holding our Board to account

Governors are responsible for holding our non-executive directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the Board of Directors.

- In the main, we do this through the four formal Council of Governors’ meetings held each year.
- The Chief Executive and non-executive directors routinely attend these meetings, with other executives attending on occasion.
- We now receive ‘AAA’ reports at these meetings from the non-executive directors who chair our Board’s committees – this stands for ‘assure, alert, advise’ and provides a clear summary of what they have both discussed and challenged at committee meetings.
- Formal meetings are where governors have the opportunity to speak with and challenge non-executive directors.
- Our meeting minutes can be found on the Trust’s website [here](#).
- Governors also now have the opportunity to take part in organised visits at our clinical sites. This enables us to see our non-executive directors talking to members of staff and patients and to triangulate staff and patient experience with the information and data which we receive at meetings.

Keeping you in the picture

This year continued to see the publication of our Members’ Magazine – which allows us to share news about what we as governors and our colleagues within the wider trust have been up to. This year we were pleased to publish four issues of our magazine. You can access all issues [here](#).

Governors have the opportunity to share the views of the population which we serve with our Board at each of our formal meetings. In addition, we hold four workshops each year. Workshops often feature topics which we as governors have asked to learn more about, to help us to fulfil our roles as your representatives. This year, workshop topics included:

- Patient communication and engagement
- External public communication
- A training session on how the Trust's integrated performance scorecard works and can be utilised by governors to hold non-executive directors to account

Non-Executive Director appointments

This year the Council of Governors has appointed:

- Mary Moore – Non-Executive Director
- Simon Holden – Audit Committee Chair
- Mark Wilkinson – People Committee Chair
- Mark Jones, Chair and Francine Thorpe, Quality and Safety Committee Chair, were also reappointed.

What else have we been involved in this year?

We approved our revised Membership Engagement Strategy and moved towards a model of governor led engagement. Governors now provide biannual reports to share details of their engagement activities and themes and trends identified through their engagement work with their governor colleagues and Board members.

We welcomed two development non-executive directors, through NHSE's NExT Director scheme, a development programme to support diverse and talented people into board level roles in the NHS.

Like our Board, we wanted to take positive action to increase the diversity of the Council and better represent groups which are currently underrepresented through our make-up. We therefore supported the launch of a pilot for several development governor positions.

At our January 2024 workshop, governors were consulted upon the Trust's forward plan for 2024/25, with feedback around what had been included being provided in June 2024.

And finally, we of course were delighted to approve the appointment of Mary Fleming as WWL's new Chief Executive Officer.

Election Results

This year the following people were elected to our Council:

Public: Wigan	Alan Baybutt
Public: Wigan	Pauline Gregory
Public: Leigh	Linda Sykes
Public: Leigh	Andrew Haworth
Public: Rest of England and Wales	Malcom Ryding

Staff: Nursing and midwifery
Staff: Medical and dental

Michell Hartley
George Ghaly

We also made two new appointments to our Council, from our partner organisations:

University of Central Lancashire
Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board

Rupal Lovell-Patel
Jonathan Kerry

On behalf of WWL's Council of Governors, I would like to say a closing thank you - to you as members and to all of our WWL colleagues for their ongoing support.

We would also like to thank the governors who stepped back during this last year:

- Susan Spibey
- Emily Cooper
- Catherine Martindale
- Julie Hilling
- Mel Maguiness

And finally, to celebrate the achievement of Dawn Gurbutt in reaching a maximum nine-year term as the appointed governor for the University of Central Lancashire.

Please do keep in touch, whether you would like to speak to one of the governors from your constituency personally, or simply to send in comments by email – you can reach us at Members@wwl.nhs.uk or on 0300 707 2186 - our team will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for reading!

Andrew Haworth
Lead Governor