

Title of report:	Lead Governor’s report
Presented to:	Annual Members’ Meeting 2023
On:	8 November 2023
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 [here](#).
- Governors also now have the opportunity to take part in ‘clinical quality 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 three issues of our magazine. You can access all three issues [here](#).

Each year we hold engagement events on ‘hot topics’, which always have a governor sponsor. This allows us as governors an opportunity to gather the views of members on current issues. This year we held two events:

- Digital at WWL and
- Research and innovation

Governors have the opportunity to share the views of the population which we serve with our board at each of our four formal meetings. In addition, we hold four workshops held 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, governor requested topics included:

- Civility
- Digitally enhancing healthcare
- Engagement
- Partnership working

Non-Executive Director Appointments

This year the Council of Governors has appointed:

- Julie Gill – Finance and Performance Committee Chair
- Terrence Hankin – Interim Non-Executive Director
- Rhona Bradley – Our Senior Independent Director, was also reappointed

What else have we been involved in this year?

- At our February 2023 workshop, governors were consulted upon the Trust’s forward plan for 2023/24.
- We received a subsequent update on the Trust’s site strategy.
- Governors were consulted upon and approved updates to our constitution, bringing it in line with the requirements of the Health and Care Act 2022.
- We also reappointed KPMG LLP as WWL’s external auditors.

Looking Forward

We will work in the coming year to revise our membership strategy in line with the Health & Care Act 2022. It is of particular note that governors must now work across the Greater Manchester system to represent a wider community and we will work together as a Council to consider the best ways to do this.

Election Results

This year the following people were elected to our Council:

Public: Makerfield	Phil Woods
Staff: Nursing and midwifery	Julie Barret
Staff: All other staff	Andy Savage
Staff: All other staff	Ali Al-Chalabi

Unfortunately, we did not fill the vacant seat within our Leigh constituency and will begin the process to fill this seat early in 2024.

We did however, also make several new appointments to our Council, from our partner organisations:

Edge Hill	Axel Kaehne
Wigan MBC	George Davies
Local Medical Committee	David Humphreys

Alan Baybutt was also invited to fill a public seat in our Wigan constituency, where a previous governor had stood down.

Thank you

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:

- Sean Campsall
- Stephen Gorst
- Carol Kelly
- Shelley Sephton.

And finally, to celebrate the achievement of Syed Shah and Fred Walker in reaching a maximum nine-year term as governors.

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 0800 073 1477 - our team will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for reading!

Andrew Howarth
Lead Governor