

Title of report:	Lead Governor's report
Presented to:	Annual Members' Meeting 2024
On:	13 November 2025
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Presented by:	Lead Governor
Prepared by:	Head of Corporate Governance 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 (NEDs) routinely attend these meetings, with other executives attending on occasion.
- We 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

In line with our Membership Engagement Strategy and governor led engagement model, we continued to receive biannual reports from governors, sharing details of their engagement activities and themes and trends identified through their engagement work with their governor colleagues

and Board members. In order to support our engagement work, this year we set up our Governors' Engagement Group, which aims to help governors achieve the following objectives:

- Overall, to engage with both service users and non-service users, to underpin this we will be:
 - Focussing our attention on under-represented groups to broaden our reach into the community
 - Aiming to create a more engaged membership

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:

- Community engagement - a session supported by voluntary sector partners
- WWL's community respiratory pathway pilot
- Urgent and emergency care
- Forward planning
- We also introduced 'fire side chats' with NED committee chairs, allowing space for more informal discussion around the content considered by our committees

Non-Executive Director appointments

This year the Council of Governors has been involved in a recruitment exercise to help us to find our new Chair and were delighted to approve the appointment of Dame Robina Shah.

To support continuity within the NED cohort during this period, the Council also agreed to extend the contracts of NEDs Prof C Austin and Lady R Bradley for 12 and 6 months respectively.

What else have we been involved in this year?

Following the launch of our development governor pilot, through our most recent election results, we welcomed two of our development governors in to elected posts. The pilot set out to increase the diversity of the Council and better represent groups which are currently underrepresented through our make-up by offering the opportunity for development governors to sit with the Council and learn about its work. They were also asked to contribute to discussions and offer their view points. The successful individuals, as listed below, are involved in a mixture of groups which represent the youth community, as well as supporting young people and adults to lead healthier and more active lifestyles through participation in sport. They themselves also personally reflect a diverse range of backgrounds, including age, religion, and ethnicity.

In terms of our involvement in community events, this year governors joined both Wigan Athletic Community Trust's Family Fun Day and Wigan Pride, which WWL were pleased to be able to continue to sponsor.

Election Results

This year the following people were elected to our Council:

Public: Wigan	Peter Allard
Public: Wigan	Anita Baker
Public: Leigh	Robert Ford
Public: Leigh	Gary Twist
Public: Makerfield	Michael Mills
Public: Rest of England and Wales	Anthony Ashworth-Steen
Public: Rest of England and Wales	Steven Eastwood

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

Wigan Council	David Molenyeux
Age UK	Neil Turner

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

- Malcolm Ryding;
- Bryonie Shaw;

We are pleased to celebrate the achievement of those reaching a maximum nine-year term:

- Les Chamberlain
- Mustapha Koriba
- Lisa Lymath

And finally, we would like to pay tribute to the late Cllr George Davies who had sat on the Council since 2023 and made many a valuable contribution to our work.

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!

Andy Savage
Lead Governor