

Changing

Lives

NHS

**South London
and Maudsley
NHS Foundation Trust**



Council of Governors

Review of

2018/19





Welcome from our Lead Governor

Dear Members,

A warm welcome to this review, in which you will find information about our role as Governors and the activities we have carried out over the last year.

We have had the pleasure of meeting members at a range of local events over the last year and hearing your views. We have also visited Trust services and worked closely with the Trust Board on a range of issues, including asking questions and seeking assurance on matters of importance to the communities SLaM serves.

We hope that you will find this overview of our activities useful.

Jenny Cobley
Lead Governor

What is our role?

We act as a link between service users, carers, the public and the Board of Directors.

We raise issues with the Directors and we have a key role in making sure that our Non-Executive Directors are offering oversight and challenge to the Trust executive team to ensure that SLaM is delivering high quality, efficient and effective services.

Other responsibilities include:

- Appointing or removing the Trust Chair and Non-Executive Directors.
- Approving the appointment of the Chief Executive.
- Deciding on the remuneration and terms and conditions of Non-Executive Directors.
- Appointing the external financial auditor.
- Receiving the Trust's annual accounts, any report of the auditor on them, and the annual report at a general meeting of the Council of Governors.
- Holding the Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Board.
- Representing the interests of the members of the Trust as a whole and the interests of the public.
- Approving any "significant transactions" made by the Trust.
- Approving any application by the Trust to enter into a merger, acquisition, separation or dissolution.
- Deciding whether the Trust's non-NHS work would significantly interfere with its principal purpose, which is to provide goods and services for the health service in England, or performing its other functions.
- Approving any amendments to the Trust's constitution.



The Council of Governors represents the interests of our members.

- The Council is made up of 39 Governors.
- Eight are elected by the public and nine represent service users.
- Three represent carers and there are six elected staff representatives.
- Finally, there are 13 appointed representatives from stakeholder organisations including local authorities and commissioners.
- The Council of Governors meets four times a year and is chaired by the Trust Chair.



Governors also have four working groups which meet four times a year.

These are:

Membership and Involvement;

Planning and Strategy;

Quality; and The Bids and Steering group;

There is one Governor committee – the Nominations Committee.

What have we achieved in 2018/19?

During the last year, we have worked closely with our Non-Executive Directors to highlight areas of concern and to seek assurance from the Board on a range of important issues for service users, carers and our local population.

Issues Governors have raised include:

The treatment of people with mental health issues at Emergency Departments; the availability of inpatient beds for those who need them; the capacity of services in the community; how the Trust works in partnership; staff wellbeing; diversity and equalities issues; identification of carers and family, the findings of the 2018 Care Quality Commission inspection and much more.

We have continued to use the many opportunities open to us to ask questions of our Non-Executive Directors and to hold them to account for the performance of the Board. We are involved in a formal question and answer session with the Non-Executive Directors every three months, as well as having a more informal opportunity to ask questions before every Board meeting. We also have a presentation by a Non-Executive Director at every Council of Governors meeting and an opportunity to ask questions. Non-Executive Directors also attend the Governor Working Groups

and there are Governor Observers at each of the Board Committees. We use these opportunities to ask probing questions about the performance of the Trust and our input is often referenced and discussed at the public Board meetings. Governors were involved in the recruitment of the new Chief Executive, David Bradley.

The Quality Working Group focuses on the patient and carer experience, and has been consulted about the Trust's Quality Accounts and Quality Priorities; you will see the response to the Quality Accounts from the Governors in this year's Annual Report. The group has been consulted on action plans arising from the CQC inspection and were engaged in the restructure of services from Clinical Academic Groups to a borough-based directorate structure.

At the Planning and Strategy Working Group, Governors get actively involved in understanding and challenging the Trust's operational and financial strategy. There are also sessions on finance and performance at each Council of Governors meeting. This year, there has also been a focus on

the launch and implementation of the Changing Lives strategy, the use and development of SLaM's estates and how the Trust works with its commissioners and partners to secure the best outcomes for its population.



Our Membership and Involvement Working Group has been working on its strategy to increase Governor interaction with members and to capture engagement work. When possible, we attend local events relevant to mental health. We are piloting new ways of engaging with our local communities, capturing what we hear and learn so that we can feed back to the full Council and Board on the needs of our population, representing our constituents.

Our Governor Away-Days in 2018-19 were designed to address topics that Governors wanted to learn more about, helping us to be as effective as possible in our roles. We had sessions on how performance is measured and reported in the Trust, the priorities for our local commissioners and how to hold Non-Executive Directors to account.

Induction and training is embedded in the term of a Governor. New governors attend two induction events, the first organised by 'Governwell' within NHS Providers which helps new Governors understand what the role involves. The second is bespoke to SLaM, introducing new Governors to the Trust and its key figures, services and the context in which it operates. Governors have also attended a wide range of other training over the last year to support them in their role.

We held two successful Members' Seminars at the ORTUS Maudsley Learning Centre, Camberwell: Kate Lillywhite from the Mind and Body Programme at King's Health Partners on "Mind and Body: Don't Separate the Inseparable", Professor Khalida Ismail from King's College London on "Diabetes in Psychosis".

We are keen to make regular visits to the services provided by the Trust. Over the last year, we have visited inpatient and community teams across the area, including male and female acute wards, an Assessment and Liaison team, the Place of Safety, the Emergency Department at King's College Hospital and the specialist Eating Disorders Service. These visits are undertaken alongside non-executive directors and we feed back to the Council of Governors and the Board on what we learn on the visits.

Bids scheme funding: Time to Smile 2019 – 20

We are very grateful to the Maudsley Charity for agreeing to a long-term funding arrangement for the Smile scheme which makes such a difference to so many of our members, by providing small grants to projects which will benefit three or more service users. The scheme will run annually with annual funding of £50,000.

This year the scheme also covered Black History Month and World Mental Health Day funds, bringing it to a total of £60,000.

Time to Smile 2019-2020 started at the end of January 2019 and will fund bids from end September 2019 to end September 2020.

Membership

As of 6 September 2019, the Trust has **16,387 members** of which **9,919 are public members;** **1,361 patient or carer members** and **5,107 staff members.**

If you know someone who is interested in becoming a member, they can visit our website:

www.slam.nhs.uk/about-us/get-involved/membership

or contact us at

membership@slam.nhs.uk

**or call Membership Officer
Carol Stevenson on
020 3228 2441.**

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