

Report to:	Public Board of Directors	Agenda item:	5
Date of Meeting:	6 November 2024		

Title of Report:	Governor Log of Assurance Questions and Responses
Status:	For Information
Board Sponsor:	Alison Ryan, Chair
Author:	Roxy Milbourne, Interim Head of Corporate Governance
Appendices	Appendix 1: Governor Log of questions November 2024

1.	Executive Summary of the Report
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This report provides the Board of Directors with an update on all questions on the “Governors’ log of assurance questions” and subsequent responses. The Governors’ log of assurance questions is a means of tracking the communication between the Governors and the Non-Executive Directors (NEDs). Governors are required to hold the NEDs to account for the performance of the Board and this is one way of demonstrating this.

Three new questions, SEPT24.1, SEPT24.2 and OCT24.1, were raised since the last report was presented in September 2024. These related to the results of an independent review of facilities, specifically in relation to the Trust Security Team, the group model and the benchmarking and investigation of critical incidents.

The questions were sent to the relevant members of the Board and Nigel Stevens, Non-Executive Director has provided a response to SEPT24.2 which is detailed in appendix 1. The relevant Board members are in the process of formulating a response to the remaining questions and this will be circulated to the Council of Governors in due course.

2.	Recommendations (Note, Approve, Discuss)
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The report is presented for information.

3.	Legal / Regulatory Implications
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None

4.	Risk (Threats or opportunities, link to a risk on the Risk Register, Board Assurance Framework etc.)
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There are no risks on the risk register.

5.	Resources Implications (Financial / staffing)
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There are no resource or financial implications.

6.	Equality and Diversity
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All Governors no matter their background can input into the NED questions.

7.	References to previous reports
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September 2024.

8.	Freedom of Information
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Public

9.	Sustainability
Governors have asked questions on various topics including sustainability.	

10.	Digital
Governors have asked questions on various topics including digital.	

Appendix 1: Governor Log of Assurance Questions

Date:	20th October 2024
Source Channel	Email from Public Governor
Date Sent & Responder	22nd October to Paran Govender
Question and ID	Oct24.1 To what extent are the frequency and duration of declared Critical Incidents benchmarked against those in other Trusts? What action is being taken to fully understand most probable if not actual causes of such incidents and consequently are best practice mitigating actions used in other Trusts considered?
Process / Action	Receipt of email confirmed: 22/10/24 Deadline for final submission: 08/11/24
Answer	
Closed?	Open

Appendix 1: Governor Log of Assurance Questions

Date:	19th September 2024
Source Channel	Email from Staff Governor
Date Sent & Responder	19th September 2024 to Jamie Caulfield and Toni Lynch
Question and ID	Sept24.1 Further to an assurance question sent in April regarding security, it was said that an independent review was going to take place and outcomes would be reviewed by NCGC. We have now had a follow up to ask what the outcomes were and if they state that we have a safe number of trained security staff on shift to cover the entirety of the hospital.
Process / Action	Receipt of email confirmed: 09/10/24 Awaiting response
Answer	
Closed?	Open

Date:	30th September 2024
Source Channel	Email from Public Governor
Date Sent & Responder	8th October to all NEDs
Question and ID	Sept24.2 The recent independent report into the benefits of the Group model identified both improvements to patient care and financial benefits (cost efficiencies) would result. To what extent have the non-executive Directors had clarity over the scale and financial value of the cost benefits potentially derived from synergy opportunities and what processes are in place to provide them assurance on accurately measuring these benefits?
Process / Action	Response received from Nigel Stevens on 29th October 2024. Sent to all Governors on 30th October 2024.
Answer	Throughout the discussions and process leading to the creation of a Group model, the NEDs have been closely engaged through boards, briefings from the ICS leaders and other key stakeholders. Critically, the Carnell Farrer report was commissioned to provide an independent analysis of the potential opportunities presented by a Group model approach. This report provided an unequivocal case for the approach and quantified savings possible. As the new structures are developed, an important objective is to ensure mechanisms are in place to track benefits available and delivered.
Closed?	Open. To be closed at the Council of Governors meeting on 10th December 2024