

Report to:	Council of Governors	Agenda item:	11
Date of Meeting:	2 December 2021		

Title of Report:	Deputy Lead Governor Post – Proposal and Decision
Status:	To Approve
Board Sponsor:	Alison Ryan, Chair
Authors:	Gill Little, Lead Governor and Dan Asamoah, Deputy Head of Corporate Governance
Appendices	None

1. Executive Summary of the Report
In the last public governors elections we lost our Lead Governor after failing to be re-elected, which left a vacancy. To reduce the impact of such risk it would it is proposed to appoint a deputy lead governor to take the rein in case of any eventuality

2. Recommendations (Note, Approve, Discuss)
It is recommended that the Council of Governors discuss and approve on the proposal to appoint a Deputy Lead Governor for an initial 3 year term and agree on how to appoint

3. Legal / Regulatory Implications
It is a statutory requirement for Foundation Trusts (FTs) to have a Council of Governors. It is also required for each Council of Governors to appoint one of the Governors to be a Lead Governor or the proposed Deputy Lead

4. Risk (Threats or opportunities, link to a risk on the Risk Register, Board Assurance Framework etc.)
N/A

5. Resources Implications (Financial / staffing)
N/A

6. Equality and Diversity
N/A

7. References to previous reports
N/A

8. Freedom of Information
Public

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A DEPUTY LEAD GOVERNOR POST

BACKGROUND

It is a statutory requirement for Foundation Trusts (FTs) to have a Council of Governors. It is also required for each Council of Governors to appoint one of the Governors to be a Lead Governor. The Lead Governor is there to be an official point of communication between the Council of Governors and NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) (formerly NHS Improvement and Monitor) and also in line with RUH Governor Engagement Policy. The Lead Governor would be required to chair the Council of Governors when it is not appropriate for the Chair, Deputy Chair or other NED to do so because of a conflict of interest, for example when the Chair's performance and the Chair's/NED's pay and conditions are being discussed in the same meeting.

Other than that, FTs are free to add any other duties they see fit for the Lead Governor to do. In RUH the Lead Governor's role include presenting the Council's Annual Report at AGM/AMMs and chairing All Governors' Constituency meetings.

DEPUTY LEAD GOVERNOR

Alison Ryan, Trust Chair, Gill Little, Lead Governor and the Corporate Governance and membership team have been exploring Lead Governor's succession planning for a while and had considered arrangements in other Trusts. Some FTs have two Lead Governors and most FTs have a Lead Governor and a Deputy Lead, which is the setting at Salisbury NHS FT, Camden and Islington FT and Kings College Hospital. More usually the Deputy Lead steps in when the Lead Governor cannot be available for any reason. In the last public governors elections we lost our Lead Governor after failing to be re-elected, which left a vacancy. To reduce the impact of such risk it would be expedient to appoint a deputy lead governor to take the rein in case of any eventuality.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council of Governors discuss and approve on the proposal to appoint a Deputy Lead Governor for an initial 3 year term and agree on how to appoint given the three options below:

- **OPTION ONE**

Applications from interested Governors will be submitted to Lead Governor and or Deputy Head of Corporate Governance. Interested candidates would then be subjected to election by secret ballot via email.

- **OPTION TWO**

The Council simply elects a deputy Lead Governor from all Public Governors, by secret ballot via email, the Governor with the highest votes then becomes the Deputy Lead.

- **OPTION THREE**

Applications from interested Governors will be submitted to the Lead Governor and or Deputy Head of Corporate Governance. The Lead Governor and Deputy Head of Corporate Governance would then review applications for complementary skills and experience and recommend the best candidate to the Council for appointment.

Author: Gill Little, Lead Governor & Dan Asamoah, Interim Deputy Head of Corporate Governance	Date: 2 December 2021
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