

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Public Council of Governors</b>	<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>12 December 2022</b>		

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Governor log of assurance questions and responses</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Board Sponsor:</b>	<b>Alison Ryan, Chair</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Roxy Milbourne, Deputy Head of Corporate Governance</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Appendix 1: Governor log of assurance questions</b>

<b>1. Executive Summary of the Report</b>
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide the Council of Governors with an update on all questions on the “Governors’ log of assurance questions” and subsequent responses.</p> <p>The Governors’ log of assurance questions is a means of tracking the communication between the Governors and the Non-Executive Directors.</p> <p>Since the last meeting, the Governor Quality Working Group posed a question to Ian Orpen, Non-Executive Director in October and a response was provided via email to Governors on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. The response is enclosed at appendix 1 and as there have been no objections this item is being put forward to the Council of Governors for closure.</p>

<b>2. Recommendations (Note, Approve, Discuss)</b>
The report is presented for information and Governors are asked to approve the closure of question ID <b>OCT22</b> .

<b>3. Legal / Regulatory Implications</b>
None

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

<b>5. Resources Implications (Financial / staffing)</b>
N/A

<b>6. Equality and Diversity</b>
N/A

<b>7. References to previous reports</b>
This is a standing agenda item and is received on a quarterly basis.

<b>8. Freedom of Information</b>
Public

**Appendix 1: Governor Log of Assurance Questions**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>11th October 2022</b>
<b>Source Channel</b>	<b>Governor Quality Working Group</b>
<b>Date Sent &amp; Responder</b>	Sent to Ian Orpen on the 20th October 2022, response requested 31st October
<b>Question and ID</b>	<p><b>OCT22</b> - Since Covid measures were introduced, the Trust has been able to cease using corridors in the Emergency Department to queue patients in and out of the department. Corridors were deemed a risk at the time due to the inability to socially distance, however there are further risks such as no oxygen, suction, patient call bells or emergency bells in corridors. During times of increased pressure on the hospital, such as recently with the internal critical incident, an "out corridor" has been reintroduced, consisting of patients awaiting beds on wards within the hospital.</p> <p>What assurance do the NEDs have that the Trust's winter plan will increase flow out of the ED so that patients don't have to be nursed in an "out corridor".</p>
<b>Process / Action</b>	Ian Orpen response 31st October 2022
<b>Answer</b>	The Trust Winter Plan has been discussed at Quality Governance Committee in detail. It describes a range of measures including boarding on wards, where extra beds have been included after individual risk assessments on each ward where this has been proposed. This work has been overseen by the Chief Nurse and Chief Operating Officer. The situation remains fluid and is under constant review as operational pressures vary day by day requiring nimble and flexible approaches working with community and system partners. The reality is that capacity is exceeded by demand, meaning that less than ideal solutions like boarding are used but mitigations are put in place to minimise risk and provide the best quality care possible. In short, NEDs can only be partly assured of the success of any measures in the Winter Plan, given there is much that is beyond the Trust's control, but we are assured that the Trust is doing all that it can reasonably do under the circumstances to enhance flow out of ED.
<b>Closed?</b>	<b>To be closed at December CoG meeting</b>