

Special Members' Meeting

29 June 2018

The meeting was held at in the Great Hall, Hall Place, Bexley starting at 10am.

It was attended by the following:

Board of Directors

Andy Trotter, Chair	Helen Smith, Acting Chief Executive
Steve James, Senior Independent Director	Meera Nair, Director of Workforce & Quality Improvement
Jane Wells, Director of Nursing	

Council of Governors

Fola Balogun, Service User/Carer Governor	Joseph Hopkins, Service User/Carer Governor
Ben Spencer, Public Governor	Lesley Smith, Service User/Carer Governor

Service directors

Estelle Frost, Service Director Bromley Adults	Stephen Whitmore, Service Director Children and Young People
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Plus 46 members of the foundation trust from the Public, Service User/Carer and Staff constituencies.

1. Welcome

Trust Chair Andy Trotter welcomed the audience to the event.

2. Overview of proposed changes to the Council of Governors

Chair Andy Trotter presented an overview of the proposed changes to the Constitution. These were to:

- Re-structure the council and our membership constituencies along similar lines to our service directorates.
- Reduce our governors from 42 to 37.
- Introduce a new special interest group for forensic and prison services.
- Change some of our staff constituencies.

The changes have been proposed by the Council of Governors in response to the changes to how services are organised within Oxleas and to enable greater engagement through more borough-focused discussions and links with members. It also recognises that our Council of Governors is one of the largest in the country and that we have had difficulty filling all vacancies.

Proposed changes to Public constituencies

The following proposed changes to the above constituencies were explained.

- To reduce the number of governors in the Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich Public constituencies from 4 to 3 governors.
- There is no proposed change to the Rest of England Public constituency.
- To reduce the Public governors from 13 to 10 in total.

Proposed changes to Service user/carer constituency interest groups

The following proposed changes to the above constituency interest groups were explained.

- To discontinue the Adult Community Health, Older People's Mental Health and Working Age Adult Mental Health (also representing the interests of forensic and prison services) interest groups.
- That members in the above interest groups will move to new interest groups – Bexley Adult, Bromley Adult or Greenwich Adult depending on the borough they live in.
- That members can join a new interest group representing Forensic and Prison if they wish.
- To increase the number of governors representing Children from 1 to 2 governors.
- There is no proposed change to the Learning Disability and Carer interest groups.
- To reduce the Service user/carer governors from 13 to 11 in total.

Proposed changes to our Staff constituency classes

The following proposed changes to the above constituency staff classes were explained.

- To discontinue the Adult Community Health, Older People's Mental Health and Working Age Adult Mental Health Staff constituency classes.
- That members in the above Staff constituency classes will move to new classes – Bexley Adult, Bromley Adult or Greenwich Adult depending on the borough they work in.
- There is no proposed change to the Children's, Corporate and Partnerships, Learning Disability and Forensic and Prison Staff constituency classes.
- There is no planned reduction in staff governors.

3. Questions and Answer session

The question and answer session was chaired by Andy Trotter.

I'm concerned that the trust will lose focus on older people if they are part of a wider interest group.

Older People's Mental Health Services are part of the wider adult directorates in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich which also incorporate Working Age Adult Mental Health and Adult Community Health services. The aim of this is to integrate physical and mental health services more and enable closer links with local organisations within the boroughs. However, it is recognised that it is important to share learning across services and therefore a network for people working in older people's mental health services is being established.

Who is representing the interests of adolescents?

The Children's Service user/carer constituency interest group and the Children's Staff class will represent the voice of children and young people.

I live in a care home. Will the changes affect care home staff?

No, care home staff are not employed by Oxleas.

Do you have vacancies currently and do you often have vacancies?

Yes, we currently have several vacancies and will be going out to election in the summer to fill these. We have found it difficult to maintain a full Council with a number of Public governor vacancies unfilled following elections. It would be more cost effective and efficient to reduce the number of Public governors with the aim of filling a smaller number of vacant positions.

The meeting ended at 10.30am

4. Membership vote

Chair Andy Trotter declared voting on the proposed changes open at 10.30am.

Voting ended at 11.30am

The results of the vote will be available on the trust's website on Monday, 2 July 2018.