

2023 ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

20 September 2023

Haydock Park Racecourse

MINUTES

Attendees

Board of Directors

Karen Bliss, Chair
Colin Scales, Chief Executive
Sarah Brennan, Chief Operating Officer
Gail Briers, Non-Executive Director
Linda Chivers, Non-Executive Director

Nick Gallagher, Director of Finance
Martyn Taylor, Non-Executive Director
Tina Wilkins, Non-Executive Director
Paula Woods, Director of People and Organisational Development

Council of Governors

Peter Hollett, Public Governor, Halton

Other Attendees inc. sponsors

TBC

Apologies

Governors

Christine Stankus, Lead Governor & Public Governor, Rest of England
Arshad Ashraf, Public Governor, Rest of England
Claire Barton, Staff Governor
Rita Chapman, Public Governor, Rest of England
Rachel Game, Partner Governor
Kevin Goucher, Public Governor, Warrington

Bill Harrison, Public Governor, Rest of England
Janet Hennessy, Partner Governor
Matthew Machin, Public Governor, Warrington
Sue Mackie, Staff Governor
Andrew Mortimer, Public Governor, Warrington
Sarah Power, Staff Governor
Dave Wilson, Partner Governor
Nicola Wilson, Staff Governor

Board of Directors

Lynne Carter, Deputy Chief Executive / Chief Nurse
Elaine Inglesby, Non-Executive Director
Ted Adams, Medical Director
Rob Foster, Programme Director of Integration and Collaboration

Members

Jessica Morris
Jim Sinnott
Sally Yeoman

1. Welcome: Karen Bliss, Chair

The Chair, Karen Bliss, welcomed everyone to the Annual Members Meeting.

Notifications and invitations to the meeting had been circulated to all interested parties in advance along with a link to the draft minutes of 2021-22 Annual Members Meeting and the Trust's Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2021-22.

Apologies were noted from Governors, Board of Directors and Members.

2. Minutes of 2021-22 Annual Members Meeting: Karen Bliss, Chair

The minutes of the 2021-22 Annual Members meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Bridgewater: Our Year (animation)

The Chair, Karen Bliss, introduced a short animation which focused on how the Trust had worked together with existing partners and new collaborative approaches on the planning and delivery of services in the past year.

The Chief Executive, Colin Scales introduced the Trust's refreshed strategy, 'Communities Matter' 2023-2026 which set out our ambitions and emphasised the central role that communities play in shaping our response to the health and wellbeing challenges which we all face. A key element will be engagement with the communities we serve.

The resilience of our staff continued to be tested by the increasing pressures and demand on the services we provided, plus calls to support colleagues in local hospitals and personal challenges, including the cost of living crisis.

During 2022-23 integrated care systems were formally established across the country to enable greater collaboration of health organisations working in health and social care. In our locality, the Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care System is led by the Integrated Care Board which brings together public services, including the NHS, GPs, local authorities, voluntary and community organisations. Additionally, a collaboration of systems that provide community services and mental health services was in place to bring the knowledge and very best of what us and partners do across the nine places in Cheshire and Mersey together for the benefit of patients and staff working alongside colleagues in the hospitals and third sector organisations.

The Trust paid tribute to two long-standing Governors who had sadly passed away in the past year. Mrs Diane McCormick and Mr Paul Mendeika had been instrumental in engaging with our wider community and during their tenures, were committed members of our Council of Governors.

We are always privileged to be part of people's everyday lives and we are proud to do so. We are indebted to all our staff for the extraordinary work they do.

The Director of Finance, Nick Gallagher was pleased to report on the activity of teams throughout the organisation including:

- maintaining a healthy cash balance, securing unqualified approval of our accounts for the past year and had exceeded the Better Payments Practice Code as one of the few trusts to do so.
- development of an attractive and rewarding apprenticeship scheme which drew on the knowledge and skills within our local communities

- launch of the Green Strategy which included cleaner, more efficient vehicles and replacement of inefficient boilers and the use of recycled printing materials

The ambition for 2023-24 was to continue to deliver fantastic services and achieve a break even financial position, investing in our communities, staff and services to deliver real benefits.

- 4. 2022-23 Annual Accounts: Auditors Opinion: Nick Gallagher, Director of Finance**
In line with the Trust's commitment to the Green Plan, the Trust's Annual Accounts 2022-23 were available on the Trust's website. Also available was the Auditor's Annual Report 2022-23 which was issued as an unqualified opinion which meant the auditor believed the financial statement gave a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Trust.

Nick was pleased to report that the Trust had maintained a healthy cash balance and had exceeded the Better Payments Practice Code as one of the few trusts to do so. He provided assurance that there were robust plans for 2023-24 and the year to date information demonstrated that the Trust was on track to deliver a breakeven outturn due to the fantastic response from the organisation.

- 5. Council of Governors Overview: Christine Stankus, Lead Governor**

The Chair, Karen Bliss introduced the overview and noted that in addition to the tributes to Mrs McCormick and Mr Mendeika, she had been informed that the Trust's first Lead Governor, John Prince had sadly passed away and our condolences to his family were noted.

The Lead Governor, Christine Stankus provided an update from the Council of Governors via an animated video.

She outlined the activity and time commitment that Governors had undertaken during 2022-23 and the support she had received on her appointment as Lead Governor

Christine paused to reflect on the sad passing of Diane McCormick who had served as a public governor in Oldham for 10 years and who had provided a unique insight and knowledge of community in which she and her family lived. She also reflected on the sad passing of Paul Mendeika who had served as a public governor in Warrington for seven years and had been passionate about engagement and involvement. The Governors remembered them with great respect and felt privileged to have worked alongside them.

She concluded by thanking all Board members for their support and collaboration in the past year and encouraged everyone to work together to deliver even more great work in the future.

- 6. Bridgewater 'Communities Matter': Nick Gallagher, Director of Finance**

The Director of Finance, Nick Gallagher, presented the Trust's refreshed strategy, titled 'Communities Matter'. This is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate the expertise the Trust has to contribute to creating stronger, healthier communities. He shared an example of the stark differences in health outcomes and opportunities in two areas; Windmill Hill and Daresbury and the need to address these.

The Trust's strategic objectives had also been refreshed to align with the development of the strategy and the activity it undertook:

- Quality

- Health Equity
- Staff
- Resources
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Partnerships

The Trust's focus would remain on the communities to:

- Empower and educate people to make informed decision about their health and to manage and take responsibility for their care
- Embed services that place the person at the centre of the care process
- Continue to develop integrated services that deliver the right care, first time

The Letby case had demonstrated the need to listen to concerns and this could be undertaken via Freedom To Speak Up and other mechanisms.

Nick concluded that the next steps in delivering the strategy would be wider engagement with communities via the Governors and with staff, partners and commissioners.

7. Reflections and Looking Ahead: Colin Scales, Chief Executive

The Chief Executive, Colin Scales thanked everyone for attending the Annual Members Meeting and invited them to pause and reflect on the previous 12 months. The hard work, compassion and commitment of individuals and teams had continued to be truly inspirational.

The Trust and individuals had received many complements in the past year both from patients and families and our partners and it was a great opportunity to celebrate the successes which included:

- Safe at Home
- A national award for the Halton Intermediate Care & Frailty (HICAF) service
- 0-19 service had been retained
- An innovative apprenticeship approach resulting in over 100 apprentices which was the highest in Cheshire and Mersey
- Finalists for HSJ Primary and Community Care Provider of the Year

The Chief Executive concluded by thanking all staff, Governors, Directors, Non-Executive Directors and the Chair.

Questions from the floor:

No questions were received, however there was a proposal and agreement for a round of applause in recognition of the sad deaths of Diane McCormick and Paul Mendeika.

8. Close

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.