

Governing Body

Summary sheet

Date of meeting: 2 February 2021

For: Public session (Part 1)

For: Decision

Agenda item: Chairs report

Author(s): Dr Iain Chorlton, chair

Presented by: Dr Iain Chorlton

Executive summary

Introduction

Welcome to our first Governing Body meeting in public of 2021. We continue to hold our meetings via Microsoft Teams, March 2020 was the last time we met as a Governing Body face to face, in Penzance. I remember the day well, it being the last meeting that our previous Accountable Officer, Jackie Pendleton, was at – our plans for a fanfare send-off are still on the pending pile! The day finished for many of us, with a series of train cancellations and significant delays getting home and my missing Plymouth Argyle's home game that evening.

My opening thoughts a year ago might be said at the start of anything new, reflecting on what I said then is somewhat an understatement, considering how much has changed and what uncertainty 2021 presents us all with.

“Happy New Year. Getting off to a good start is not always reliant on knowing your final destination, but in understanding what direction you are headed off in. As a system we have faced many challenges, at the start of 2020 what I see is a willingness to face those together and make the sum of our parts work to the best of our combined abilities”

By March our Chief Officer Directors Report was beginning to make reference to the pandemic:

“The coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) has become the priority issue since the end of January. Activities include interpreting and sharing fast moving guidance changes; linking the responses of the CCG, providers and local authorities; receiving direction from and providing assurance to regional teams; promoting sensitive and proportional communication; creation of isolation pods; setting up a community swabbing service and monitoring the local situation closely.”

Through necessity the response to COVID-19 has become all consuming and as we begin 2021 we see our acute and community services under immense pressure and all this alongside mobilising a population immunisation programme. It is important that as accountable commissioners that we continue to fulfil our obligation in public, whilst ensuring that capacity and leadership is available to the very real needs of today. With that in mind you will note that our Governing Body is an abridged version of our usual meetings, with priority being given to updates around the current position with COVID-19 infections in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and current progress in vaccinating the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) first four priority groups.

Joint Chief Officer Appointment

In December I updated you that our process for recruiting a system Chief Executive and CCG Accountable Officer had paused, due to pressures across the region and priorities being felt to be elsewhere. Given the time that has now passed and several of the candidates taking up other roles, it does not seem sensible to pick up where we left off. It is only fair, given the intervening months, that we start anew. The recruitment pack that was previously produced will be reviewed and a new process initiated; all dependent on the demands of other more pressing issues and diary availability. This is a process we must not rush; our stakeholder panels at the end of November had planned a wide selection of participants from across our health and care system, alongside other members of our community. We will continue to keep member practices, CCG employees and our system colleagues apprised of any updates to this. It is imperative that we are able to conduct a robust and successful recruitment process and must have the capacity to do this; that is able to consider the demands of the pandemic and immunisation response.

CCG Chair Recruitment

Following my announcement in December, it remains my intention to step down from my role as Chairman at the end of March. Our remuneration committee considered the recruitment process for our new Chair and communication to GPs on the local performer's list, along with an advert, are due to be placed in the near future. This recruitment is different to that of a System Executive Lead, the CCG Chair is a statutory position, not a new role, and there is a finite pool from which to identify candidates.

I would like to thank Chris Blong, our Vice Chair, for leading this appointment and I would like to wish our next Chair success and good fortune. The past six years have seen many unexpected challenges. I stand by what I said in December, that our motivation rests in being able to do the best for our people, to retain our local focus – each and every one of you has a unique and important contribution to make. The difference we make is not through individual endeavour and decision making, it is through aligned collaboration. I recently recycled my musing about Kipling's cat who walked by himself for the GP and staff bulletin: I'll sign off with a reference to

Aristotle, rather than Winnie the Pooh, or my other sources of inspiration. Our whole is so much more than the sum of our parts.

Fiscal Lay member

Governing Body is asked to support Mr John Yarnold, our fiscal lay member's, third and final term of office which commences this month.

Recommendations and specific action the governing body needs to take at the meeting

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Approve the continuation of Mr John Yarnold into his third and final term of office which will expire in February 2023.