

# **Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

## **Standing orders for the Board of Directors**

Approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on 10 July 2025

## Contents

Item	Page
INTRODUCTION .....	3
1 INTERPRETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS.....	4
2 THE FOUNDATION TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	7
3 ROLE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS .....	8
4 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	10
5 COMMITTEES.....	17
6 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXERCISE OF BOARD FUNCTIONS BY DELEGATION .....	19
7 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.....	20
8 STANDARDS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT POLICY .....	23
9 OVERLAP WITH OTHER POLICY STATEMENTS, PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS .....	23
10 CUSTODY OF SEAL AND SEALING OF DOCUMENTS .....	24
11 SIGNATURE OF DOCUMENTS .....	24
12 MISCELLANEOUS .....	25

## Introduction

### Statutory framework

Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust ("**the Foundation Trust**"), became a Public Benefit Corporation on 1 July 2004 following the approval by the Regulator. The Foundation Trust is governed by the National Health Service Act 2006 ("**the 2006 Act**"), the Constitution and the Licence granted by the Regulator ("**the Regulatory Framework**"). The functions of the Foundation Trust are conferred by the Regulatory Framework. The Regulatory Framework requires the Board of Directors to adopt Standing Orders for the Board of Directors for the regulation of its proceedings and business. The Foundation Trust must also adopt Standing Financial Instructions which set out various responsibilities of individuals.

The Foundation Trust's principal place of business is the Queen Victoria Hospital, Holtye Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3DZ.

As a Public Benefit Corporation, the Foundation Trust has specific powers to contract in its own name and to act as a corporate trustee. In the latter role it is accountable to the Charity Commission for those funds deemed to be charitable. The Foundation Trust also has a common law duty as a bailee for patient's property held by the Foundation Trust on behalf of patients.

These Standing Orders ("SOs"), together with the Reservation of Powers and Scheme of Delegation and the Standing Financial Instructions, provide a comprehensive framework for the functions of the Trust. All Executive Directors, Non-Executive Directors and Officers should be aware of the existence of these documents and, where necessary, be familiar with the detailed provisions.

# 1 Interpretations and definitions

- 1.1 Any expression to which a meaning is given in the 2006 Act or any regulations or orders made under the 2006 Act shall have the same meaning in these SOs and in addition, defined terms used in these SOs have the same meaning as in the Constitution unless the context requires otherwise, or a contrary intention is evident.
- 1.2 Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chair of the Foundation Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of these SOs (on which he/she should be advised by the Secretary).
- 1.3 Words importing the singular shall import the plural and vice-versa in each case.
- 1.4 In these SOs:

**The 2006 Act** is the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended);

**Accounting Officer** means the person who, from time to time, discharges the functions specified in paragraph 25(5) of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act;

**Audit and Risk Committee** means a committee of the Board of Directors established in accordance with paragraph 47 of the Constitution;

**Board of Directors** means the Board of Directors of the Foundation Trust, constituted in accordance with the Constitution;

**Chair** means the person appointed in accordance with the Constitution to ensure that the Board of Directors and Council of Governors successfully discharge their overall responsibilities for the Foundation Trust as a whole. The expression “the Chair” shall include the Deputy Chair or any other Non-Executive Director appointed if the Chair or Deputy Chair is absent or is otherwise unavailable;

**Chief Executive** means the Chief Executive of the Foundation Trust;

**Clear Day** means a day of the week not including a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday;

**Committee** means a committee appointed by the Board of Directors;

**Conflict** shall have the meaning ascribed to “Conflict” in paragraph 40.11.1 of the Constitution;

**Constitution** means the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Constitution and all annexes to it;

**Council of Governors** means the Council of Governors as constituted in accordance with the Constitution and which has the same meaning as the Council of Governors in paragraph 7 of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act;

**Deputy Chair** means the Deputy Chair of the Foundation Trust appointed in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Constitution;

**Director** means a member of the Board of Directors;

**Executive Director** means an executive member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation Trust;

**Financial Year** means each successive period of 12 months beginning with 1 April and ending with 31 March;

**Foundation Trust** means the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;

**Funds held on Trust** means those funds which the Trust holds at the date of Licence, receives on distribution by statutory instrument or chooses subsequently to accept under powers derived under Section 47(2)(c) of the 2006 Act. Such funds may or may not be charitable;

**Licence** means the licence granted to the Foundation Trust under Section 88 of the 2012 Act;

**Meeting Chair** means the person presiding over a meeting, committee or event;

**Nomination and Remuneration Committee** means a committee constituted in accordance with paragraph 37.4 of the Constitution;

**Non-Executive Director** means a Non-Executive Director of the Foundation Trust;

**Officer** means an employee of the Foundation Trust or any other person holding a paid appointment or office with the Foundation Trust;

**Principal Purpose** means the purpose set out in Section 43(1) of the 2006 Act;

**Regulatory Framework** means the 2006 Act, the Constitution and the Licence;

**Secretary** means a person whose function shall be to provide advice on corporate governance issues to the Board of Directors, Council of Governors and the Chair and monitor the Foundation Trust's compliance with the Regulatory Framework. The Secretary shall be appointed and removed by the Chief Executive and Chair of the Foundation Trust acting jointly;

**Senior Independent Director** means a Non-Executive Director appointed in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Constitution;

**Pecuniary Interest** means an indirect interest in a contract if the Director:

- Or a nominee of the Director, is a member of a company or other body (not being a public body), with which the contract is made, or to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the same; or,
- is a partner, associate or employee of any person with whom the contract is made or to be made or who has a direct pecuniary interest in the same.

The interest of a Director's spouse, civil partner (as defined in the Civil Partnerships Act 2004) or co-habitee shall, if known to the person, be deemed for the purposes of these SOs to be also an interest of the person.

A director shall not be regarded as having a pecuniary interest in any contract if: neither the Director or any person connected with the Director has any beneficial interest in the securities of a company of which the Director or such person appears as a member; or,

- any interest that the Director or any person connected with them may have in the contract is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence them in relation to considering or voting on that contract; or
- those securities of any company in which the Director (or any person connected with them) has a beneficial interest do not exceed £5,000 in nominal value or one per cent of the total issued share capital of the company or of the relevant class of such capital, whichever is the less.

Any remuneration, compensation or allowance payable to the Chair or a Director by virtue of the 2006 Act shall not be treated as a pecuniary interest for the purpose of these SOs.

**Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs)** means the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Standing Financial Instructions;

**Standing Orders (SOs)** means the basic rules and procedures for the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Board of Directors.

## **2 The Foundation Trust Board of Directors**

### **Composition of the Board of Directors**

- 2.1 The composition of the Board of Directors is set out at paragraph 31 of the Constitution.

### **Appointment of the Chair and other members of the Board of Directors**

- 2.2 The Chair and other members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed in accordance with paragraphs 34 and 37 of the Constitution.

### **Terms of office of the Chair and other members of the Board of Directors**

- 2.3 The period of tenure, suspension and removal of the Chair and other members of the Board of Directors shall be in accordance with paragraphs 34, 35, 37 and 38 of the Constitution.

### **Appointment and powers of the Deputy Chair**

- 2.4 The Deputy Chair shall be appointed in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Constitution.
- 2.5 Any appointment as Deputy Chair shall be for a period not exceeding the remainder of their existing term of office as a Non-Executive Director or as specified by the Council of Governors on appointment.
- 2.6 Any Non-Executive Director so appointed may at any time resign from the office of Deputy Chair by giving notice in writing to the Chair. Thereupon, the Council of Governors may appoint another Non-Executive Director as Deputy Chair in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Constitution.
- 2.7 The Deputy Chair may act as Chair in accordance with paragraph 36.6 of the Constitution or if the Chair of the Foundation Trust has died or has ceased to hold office.
- 2.8 In the event of circumstances provided by paragraph 36.6 of the Constitution and/or 1.4 of the Standing Orders, references to the Chair in these Standing Orders shall be taken to include references to the Deputy Chair.

### **Appointment of a Senior Independent Director**

- 2.9 The Board of Directors may appoint a Non-Executive Director to be the Senior Independent Director, for such period, not exceeding the remainder of their term as a member of the Board of Directors, as they may specify on appointment. The appointment for the Senior Independent Directors shall be made in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Constitution.
- 2.10 If a Non-Executive Director resigns from the office of Senior Independent Director (in accordance with paragraph 36.3 of the Constitution), the Board of Directors may appoint another Non-Executive Director as Senior Independent Director in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 2.9.

### **3 Role of members of the Board of Directors**

#### **Corporate role of the Board of Directors**

- 3.1 All business shall be conducted in the name of the Foundation Trust.
- 3.2 All funds received in trust shall be held in the name of the Foundation Trust as corporate trustee.
- 3.3 The powers of the Foundation Trust established under statute shall be exercised by the Board of Directors meeting in public session except as otherwise provided by paragraph 39 and Annex 6 (Conduct of meetings of the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors) of the Constitution.
- 3.4 The Board of Directors will function as a corporate decision-making body. Executive and Non-Executive Directors will be full and equal members. Their role as members of the Board of Directors will be to consider the key strategic and managerial issues facing the Foundation Trust in carrying out its statutory and other functions.
- 3.5 The Foundation Trust has the functions conferred on it by the Regulatory Framework. Directors acting on behalf of the Trust as corporate trustees are acting as quasi trustees. Accountability for Charitable Funds held on Trust is to the Charity Commission and to the Regulator. Accountability for non-charitable Funds held on Trust is only to the Regulator.

#### **Chief Executive**

- 3.6 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for the overall performance of the executive functions of the Foundation Trust. The 2006 Act designates the Chief Executive of an NHS foundation trust as the accounting officer. The Chief Executive shall be responsible for ensuring the discharge of obligations under applicable financial directions, the Regulator's guidance and in line with the requirements of the NHS foundation trust accounting officer memorandum.

#### **Chief Finance Officer**

- 3.7 The Chief Finance Officer shall be responsible for the provision of financial advice to the Foundation Trust and to members of the Board of Directors and for the supervision of financial control and accounting systems. The Chief Finance Officer shall be responsible along with the Chief Executive for ensuring the discharge of obligations under applicable financial directions and the regulator's guidance.

#### **Chief Medical Officer**

- 3.8 The chief medical officer shall be responsible for effective professional leadership and management of medical staff of the Foundation Trust and shall be the responsible officer for NHS medical revalidation and the Caldicott Guardian. The chief medical officer shall provide advice to the Chief Executive and the Board of Directors on key strategic medical efficacy issues and matters relating to the medical workforce of the Foundation Trust.

#### **Chief Nursing Officer**

- 3.9 The Chief Nursing officer shall be responsible for effective professional leadership and management of nursing staff of the Foundation Trust. The Chief Nursing officer shall



provide advice to the Chief Executive and the Board of Directors on key strategic care quality issues and matters relating to the nursing workforce of the Foundation Trust.

### **Non-Executive Directors**

- 3.10 The Non-Executive Directors shall not be granted nor shall they seek to exercise any individual executive powers on behalf of the Foundation Trust. They may, however, exercise collective authority when acting as the Board of Directors or when chairing a Committee of the Board of Directors which has delegated authority to act on behalf of the Board of Directors.

### **Chair**

- 3.11 The Chair shall be responsible for the operation of the Board of Directors and shall chair all meetings of the Board of Directors when present. The Chair has certain delegated executive powers. The Chair must comply with the terms of appointment and with these Standing Orders.
- 3.12 The Chair shall liaise with the Council of Governors and its appointments committee over the appointment of Non-Executive Directors and once appointed shall take responsibility either directly or indirectly for the Non-Executive Directors' induction, portfolio of interests, assignments and performance.
- 3.13 The Chair shall work in close harmony with the Chief Executive and shall ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the Board of Directors in a timely manner with all the necessary information and advice being made available to the Board of Directors.
- 3.14 The Chair shall ensure that the designation of lead roles or appointments of members of the Board of Directors as required by the Regulator or as set out in any statutory or other guidance will be made in accordance with that guidance or statutory requirement.

### **Corporate role of the Council of Governors**

- 3.15 The Council of Governors shall fulfil its statutory duties in accordance with the Regulatory Framework.

### **Schedule of matters reserved to the Board of Directors and the Scheme of Delegation**

- 3.16 The Board of Directors has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Board of Directors meeting in formal session. These powers are set out in the Reservation of Powers and Scheme of Delegation and shall have effect as if incorporated into these Standing Orders.
- 3.17 Subject to the Regulatory Framework and such guidance or best practice as may be issued by the Regulator, the Board of Directors may make arrangements for the exercise of any of its functions by a Committee or sub-committee of the Board of Directors or by a Director or an officer in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Board of Directors considered appropriate. The powers and decisions which the Board of Directors has delegated to Committees, sub-committees, Directors or Officers are set out in the sub-committee terms of reference.

## **4 Meetings of the Board of Directors**

### **Calling meetings**

- 4.1 Subject to Standing Orders 4.2 and 4.3 below, meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as the Board of Directors may determine.
- 4.2 The Chair may call a meeting of the Board of Directors at any time.
- 4.3 One third or more of the whole number of members of the Board of Directors may requisition a meeting in writing to the Chair. If the Chair refuses or fails to call a meeting within seven Clear Days of a requisition being presented, the members of the Board of Directors who signed the requisition may forthwith call a meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Notice of meetings and the business to be transacted**

- 4.4 Before each meeting of the Board of Directors, a written notice of the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at it, and signed by the Chair or by an Officer authorised by the Chair to sign on their behalf shall be delivered to every Director (this includes email), or sent by post to the usual place of residence of such Director, so as to be available to every Director at least four Clear Days before the meeting
- 4.5 Want of service of the notice on any Director shall not affect the validity of a meeting.
- 4.6 In the case of a meeting called by Directors in default of the Chair, the notice shall be signed by those Directors and no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that specified in the notice.
- 4.7 Before each meeting of the Board of Directors a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda and associated papers shall be published on the Foundation Trust's website at least three (3) Clear Days before the meeting, save in the case of emergencies.
- 4.8 In the event of an emergency giving rise to the need for an immediate meeting, failure to comply with the notice periods referred to in SO 4.4 and (where relevant SO 4.7 above) shall not prevent the calling of, or invalidate, such a meeting without the requisite notice provided that every effort is made to make personal contact with every Director who is not absent from the United Kingdom and the agenda for the meeting is restricted to matters arising in that emergency.

### **Setting the agenda**

- 4.9 The Board of Directors may determine that certain matters shall appear on every agenda for a meeting and shall be addressed prior to any other business being conducted ("standing Items").
- 4.10 A member of the Board of Directors who desires a matter to be included on an agenda, other than a Standing Item or a motion, should make their request in writing to the Chair at least ten (10) Clear Days before the meeting. Requests made less than ten (10) Clear Days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.
- 4.11 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Board of Directors which is not specified in the notice of that meeting unless the Chair, in their absolute discretion, agrees that the item and (where relevant) any supporting papers should be considered by the

Board of Directors as a matter of urgency. A decision by the Chair to permit consideration of the item in question and (where relevant) the supporting papers shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

### **Agenda and supporting papers**

- 4.12 Before each meeting of the Board of Directors, an agenda of the meeting and any supporting papers will be provided electronically to each member of the Board of Directors at least three (3) Clear Days before the meeting, save in an emergency. Failure to serve such a notice on more than three (3) Directors will invalidate the meeting.

### **Petitions**

- 4.13 Where a petition has been received by the Foundation Trust, the Secretary shall include the petition as an item for the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Notice of motion**

- 4.14 A Director desiring to move or amend a Motion shall send a written notice thereof at least ten (10) Clear Days before the meeting to the Chair, who shall insert in the agenda for the meeting all notices so received subject to the notice being permissible under these SOs. This paragraph shall not prevent any Motion being moved during the meeting, without notice on any business mentioned on the agenda. A Motion may be proposed by the Chair of the meeting or any member of the Board of Directors present. It must also be seconded by another member of the Board of Directors.

### **Withdrawal of motion or amendments**

- 4.15 A motion or amendment once moved and seconded may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Chair.

### **Motion to rescind a resolution**

- 4.16 Notice of motion to amend or rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six (6) calendar months shall bear the signature of the member of the Board of Directors who gives it and also the signature of four (4) other members of the Board of Directors. When any such motion has been disposed of by the Board of Directors, it shall not be competent for any member of the Board of Directors other than the Chair to propose a motion to the same effect within six (6) months; however the Chair may do so if they consider it appropriate.

### **Emergency motions**

- 4.17 Subject to the agreement of the Chair, a member of the Board of Directors may give written notice of an emergency motion after the issue of the notice of meeting and agenda, up to one hour before the time fixed for the meeting. The notice shall state the grounds of urgency. If in order, it shall be declared by the Chair to the Board of Directors at the commencement of the business of the meeting as an additional item included in the agenda. The Chair's decision to include the item shall be final.

### **Motions: procedure at and during a meeting**

- 4.18 The mover of a motion shall have a right of reply at the close of any discussion on the motion or any amendment thereto.
- 4.19 When a motion is under discussion or immediately prior to discussion it shall be open to a member of the Board of Directors to move:
- 4.19.1 an amendment to the motion; or
  - 4.19.2 the adjournment of the discussion or the meeting; or
  - 4.19.3 that the meeting proceed to the next item of business; (\*) or
  - 4.19.4 the appointment of an ad hoc committee to deal with a specific item of business; or
  - 4.19.5 that the motion be now put (\*); or
  - 4.19.6 a motion resolving to exclude the public (including the press).

\*In the case of Standing Orders denoted by (\*) above to ensure objectivity motions may only be put by a member of the Board of Directors who has not previously taken part in the debate and who is eligible to vote.

- 4.20 No amendment to the motion shall be admitted if, in the opinion of the Chair, the amendment negates the substance of the motion.

#### **Written motions**

- 4.21 In urgent situations and with the consent of the Chair, business may be effected by a member of the Board of Directors written motion to deal with business otherwise required to be conducted at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 4.22 If all members of the Board of Directors have been notified of the proposal and a simple majority of the member of the Board of Directors entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Board of Directors confirms acceptance of the written motion either in writing or electronically to the Secretary within five (5) Clear Days of dispatch then the motion will be deemed to have been resolved notwithstanding that the Directors have not gathered in one place.
- 4.23 The effective date of the resolution shall be the date that the last confirmation is received by the Secretary and, until that date a member of the Board of Directors who has previously indicated acceptance can withdraw and the motion shall fail.
- 4.24 Once the resolution is passed, a copy certified by the Secretary shall be recorded in the minutes of the next ensuing meeting where it shall be signed by the person presiding at it.

#### **Chair of meeting**

- 4.25 At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chair, if present, shall preside. If the Chair is absent from the meeting, the Deputy Chair (if the board has appointed one), if present, shall preside. If the Chair and any Deputy Chair are absent, such Non-Executive Director as the Chair has previously designated or, in the absence of such designation or the designated Non-Executive Director being absent, as the Directors present choose, will preside.
- 4.26 If the Chair is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest the Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors, if present, shall preside. If the Chair and Deputy

Chair of the Board of Directors are absent, or are disqualified from participating, such Non-Executive Director as the Chair has previously designated or, in the absence of such designation or the designated Non-Executive Director being absent (on the grounds of declared conflict of interest or otherwise), as the Directors present shall choose, shall preside.

- 4.27 If any matter for consideration at a meeting of the Board of Directors relates to the interests of the Chair or the Non-Executive Directors as a class, neither the Chair nor any of the Non-Executive Directors shall preside over the period of the meeting during which the matter is under discussion. The Directors (excluding the Chair and the Non-Executive Directors) shall elect one of the number to preside during that period and that person shall exercise all the rights and obligations of the Chair, including (for the avoidance of doubt) the right to exercise a second or casting vote where the numbers of votes for and against a motion is equal. The Directors shall consider whether in fact the matter for consideration requires referral to the Council of Governors.

### **Chair's ruling**

- 4.28 The decision of the Chair of the meeting on questions of order, relevancy and regularity (including procedure on handling motions) and their interpretation of these Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions will be final.

### **Quorum**

- 4.29 No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Board of Directors unless at least one-third of the voting members of the Board of Directors are present, including at least one voting Executive Director and one Non-Executive Director.
- 4.30 In accordance with Annex 7 (Meetings of the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors – Electronic Communication) of the Constitution, members of the Board of Directors participating in meetings of the Board of Directors by telephone, video or computer link or other such agreed means shall count towards the quorum for so long as the members have the ability to communicate interactively and simultaneously with all members of the Board of Directors in attendance at the meeting, including all member attending by way of electronic communication.
- 4.31 An officer in attendance for an Executive Director member but without formal acting up status may not count towards the quorum.
- 4.32 If the Chair or another member of the Board of Director has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution by reason of a declaration of a conflict of interest that individual will no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be voted upon at that meeting. Such a position will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then proceed to the next business. The above requirement for at least one Executive Director to form part of the quorum shall not apply where the Executive Directors are excluded from a meeting of the Board of Directors (for example when the Board of Directors considers the recommendations of the Remuneration Committee). The requirement for at least one Non-Executive Director to form part of the quorum shall not apply where the Non-Executive Directors are excluded from a meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Voting**

- 4.33 Subject to Standing Orders 4.38 to 4.41 or as otherwise provided by the Standing Orders, every question put to vote at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members of the Board of Directors present and voting on the question and in the case of the number of votes for and against a motion being equal, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 4.34 At the discretion of the Chair, all questions put to the vote will be determined by oral expression or by a show of hands. Any voting member of the Board of Directors attending by telephone, video or computer link shall cast their vote verbally and such action shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 4.35 If at least one-third of the voting members of the Board of Director so request, the voting (other than by paper ballot) on any question may be recorded to show how each members present voted or abstained.
- 4.36 A paper ballot may be used if a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors present so request, in which case any person attending by telephone, video or computer link shall cast their vote verbally and such action shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If a Director so requests, their vote shall be recorded by name.
- 4.37 An officer, who has been appointed formally by the Board of Directors to act up for a voting Executive Director during a period of incapacity or temporarily to fill an Executive Director vacancy, will be entitled to exercise the voting rights of the Executive Director. An officer attending the meeting of the Board of Directors to represent a voting Executive Director during a period of incapacity or temporary absence without formal acting up status may not exercise the voting rights of the Executive Member. An officer's status when attending a meeting will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 4.38 In no circumstances may an absent Director vote by proxy. Absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

- 4.39 Except where this would contravene any statutory provision of the Regulatory Framework or any guidance or best practice issued by the Regulator, any one or more of these Standing Orders may be suspended at any meeting of the Board of Directors, provided that at least two-thirds of the whole number of the voting members of the Board of Directors are present (including at least one voting Executive Director and one Non-Executive Director) and that at least two-thirds of those members present signify their agreement to such suspension. The reason for the suspension will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 4.40 A separate record of matters discussed during the suspension of Standing Orders will be made and will be available to the Chair and members of the Board of Directors. This record of matters is separate from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 4.41 No formal business may be transacted while Standing Orders are suspended.
- 4.42 The audit and risk committee shall review every decision to suspend Standing Orders.

### **Variation and amendment of Standing Orders**

- 4.43 These Standing Orders may be amended only if:
1. a notice of motion under Standing Orders 4.14 has been given;



2. upon a recommendation of the Chair or Chief Executive included on the agenda for the meeting of the Board of Directors;
3. at least two-thirds of the member of the Board of Directors are present at the meeting where the variation is being discussed;
4. at least half of the Non-Executive Directors vote in favour of the amendment; and
5. the variation proposed does not contravene a statutory provision, direction or guidance or best practice advice issued by the Regulator, or the terms of the Foundation Trust's Constitution.

### **Minutes**

- 4.44 The names of the Chair and members of the Board of Directors present shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 4.45 The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Directors will be drawn up by the Secretary and submitted for agreement at the next ensuing meeting of the Board of Directors, to be signed by the person presiding at it.
- 4.46 No discussion will take place upon the minutes except upon their accuracy or where the Chair considers discussion appropriate. Any amendments to the minutes shall be agreed and recorded at the next meeting.

### **Admission of the public and the press**

- 4.47 The public and representatives of the press shall be afforded facilities to attend all formal meetings of the Board of Directors but shall be required to withdraw upon the board resolving as follows:

*"That representatives of the press, and other members of the public, be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest".*

- 4.48 The Chair or person presiding over the meeting of the Board of Directors will give such directions as he/she thinks fit with regard to the arrangements for meetings and accommodation of the public and representatives of the press such as to ensure that the Board of Directors' business can be conducted without interruption and disruption and, without prejudice to the power to exclude on grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and representatives of the press will be required to withdraw upon the Board of Directors resolving as follows:

*"That in the interests of public order the meeting adjourn for (the period to be specified) to enable the Board of Directors to complete its business without the presence of the public or press".*

- 4.49 Matters to be dealt with by the Board of Directors following the exclusion of representatives of the press, and other members of the public, shall be confidential to the members of the Board of Directors, nominated officers, officers and/or others in attendance at the request of the Chair shall not reveal or disclose the content of papers or reports presented, or any discussion on these generally, which take place while the public and press are excluded, without the express permission of the Chair.

### **Use of equipment for recording or transmission of meetings**

- 4.50 Nothing in these Standing Orders shall require the Board of Directors to allow members of the public or representatives of the press to record proceedings in any manner whatsoever, other than writing, or to make any oral report of proceedings as they take place, without the prior agreement of the Board of Directors.

### **Observers**

- 4.51 The Board of Directors will decide what arrangements and terms and conditions it feels are appropriate to offer in extending an invitation to observers to attend and address any meetings of the Board of Directors and may change, alter or vary these terms and conditions as it deems fit.



## **5 Committees**

- 5.1 Subject to the Regulatory Framework and such guidance issued by the Regulator, the Board of Directors may and, if directed by the Regulator shall, appoint Committees of the Trust, consisting wholly or partly of members of the Board of Directors of the Trust. The Board of Directors may only delegate its powers to such a Committee if that Committee consists entirely of Directors of the Trust.
- 5.2 A committee or joint committee appointed under this Standing Order 5 may, subject to the Regulatory Framework and such guidance and/or best practice advice as may be issued by the Regulator or the Board of Directors or other Health Service Bodies in question, appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the Committee (whether or not they are members of the Board of Directors); or wholly of persons who are not members of the Board of Directors subject to the same proviso as in this Standing Order 6.3 to 6.5 relating to membership of the Committee and delegation of powers.
- 5.3 The Standing Orders, as far as they are applicable, shall apply with appropriate alteration to meetings of any Committees or sub-committees established by the Board of Directors. In such a case the term "Chair" is to be read as a reference to the Chair of the Committee or sub-committee as the context permits, and the term "Director" is to be read as a reference to a member of the Committee also as the context permits. (There is no requirement to hold meetings of Committees or sub-committees established by the Foundation Trust in public.)
- 5.4 The Board of Directors shall approve the appointments to each of the Committees, which it has formally constituted. Where the Board of Directors determines and regulations permit that persons, who are neither Directors nor officers, shall be appointed to a Committee the terms of such appointment shall be determined by the Board of Directors as defined by the Regulatory Framework. The Board of Directors shall define the powers of such appointees and shall agree allowances, including reimbursement for loss of earnings, and/or expenses in accordance where appropriate with its Constitution. The Board of Directors may elect to change the committees, sub-committees and joint-committees of the Board of Directors, as necessary, without requirement to amend these Standing Orders.
- 5.5 The Board of Directors shall also determine the terms of reference of Committees and sub-committees and shall, if it requires to, receive and consider reports of such Committees
- 5.6 The Committees established by the Board of Directors are:
  1. Audit and Risk Committee (also in accordance with paragraph 47 of the Constitution)
  2. Nomination and Remuneration Committee (also in accordance with paragraphs 37.3 and 37.4 of the Constitution)
- 5.7 In addition, the Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the following Committees:
  1. Finance and Performance Committee
  2. Quality and Safety Committee
  3. Strategy and culture Committee
- 5.8 The Board of Directors may also establish such Committees as it requires to discharge the Foundation Trust's responsibilities.

- 5.9 Terms of reference for Committees established by the Board of Directors will be reviewed annually, approved by the Board of Directors and published on the Foundation Trust's website.

### **Appointments for statutory functions**

- 5.10 Where the Board of Directors is required to appoint persons to a Committee and/or to undertake statutory functions as required by the Regulator, and where such appointments are to operate independently of the Board of Directors, such appointment shall be made in accordance with the regulations and directions issued by the Regulator.

### **Joint committees<sup>1</sup>**

- 5.11 Joint committees may be appointed by the Board of Directors, by joining together with one or more bodies consisting of, wholly or partly of the Chair and Directors of the Foundation Trust or other bodies, or wholly of persons who are not Directors of the Trust or other bodies in question.
- 5.12 Any Committee or joint committee appointed under this Standing Order may, subject to such directions or guidance as may be issued by the Regulator or the Foundation Trust, appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the Committee(s) or joint committee(s) or wholly of other persons provided that the Foundation Trust is always represented by an Executive Director on such Committees, joint committees or sub-committees.

### **Terms of reference**

- 5.13 Each such Committee and sub-committee shall have such terms of reference and powers and be subject to such conditions (as to reporting to the Board of Directors) as the Board of Directors shall decide and shall be in accordance with any legislation and/or guidance and/or best practice issued by the Regulator. Such terms of reference shall have effect as if incorporated in the Standing Orders. Where Committees are authorised to establish sub-committees they may not delegate executive powers to sub-committee unless expressly authorised by the Board of Directors.

### **Delegation of powers**

- 5.14 Where committees are authorised to establish sub-committees they may not delegate executive powers to the sub-committee unless expressly authorised by the Board of Directors.
- 5.15 In the event of an urgent decision required by the Board of Directors or a sub-committee, such a decision can be considered by a Committee by email or other electronic correspondence. This is subject to the quorum of the Board of Directors or sub-committee endorsing the required decision.

### **Confidentiality**

- 5.16 A member of a committee, sub-committee or joint committee shall not disclose a matter dealt with, by, or brought before, the committee without its permission until the Committee, sub-committee or joint committee (as appropriate) shall have reported to the Board of Directors or shall otherwise have concluded on that matter.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that all decisions of the joint committee will need to be ratified by the Board of Directors

- 5.17 A Director or a member of a committee, sub-committee or joint committee shall not disclose any matter reported to the Board of Directors or otherwise dealt with by the committee, sub-committee or joint committee, notwithstanding that the matter has been reported or action has been concluded, if the Board of Directors or committee, sub-committee or joint committee shall resolve that it is confidential.

## **6 Arrangements for the exercise of board functions by delegation**

- 6.1 Subject to the Regulatory Framework and such guidance or best practice as may be issued by the Regulator, the Board of Directors may make arrangements for the exercise of any of its functions by a committee or sub-committee or by a Director or an officer of the Foundation Trust in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Board of Directors considers appropriate.

### **Emergency powers**

- 6.2 The powers which the Board of Directors has reserved to itself within these Standing Orders may in emergency be exercised by the Chief Executive and the Chair after having consulted at least two Non-Executive Directors. The exercise of such powers by the Chief Executive and Chair shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board of Directors in public session for formal ratification (unless for reasons of the nature of the information for example it is privileged, not disclosable or of commercial sensitivity when it will need to go to the confidential session). The Board of Directors may also instruct the Chair to take certain actions and report back to a subsequent meeting.

### **Delegation to Committees**

- 6.3 The Board of Directors shall agree from time to time to the delegation of executive powers to be exercised by Committees, or sub-committees, or joint committees, which it has formally constituted in accordance with the Constitution. The Constitution and the terms of reference of these Committees, or sub-committees, or joint committees, and their specific executive powers shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
- 6.4 When the Board of Directors is not meeting as the Foundation Trust in public session it shall operate as a Committee and may only exercise such powers as may have been delegated to it by the Foundation Trust in public session.

### **Delegation to Officers**

- 6.5 Those functions of the Foundation Trust which have not been retained as reserved by the Board of Directors or delegated to a Committee or sub-committee or joint committee shall be exercised on behalf of the Foundation Trust by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive shall determine which functions they will perform personally and shall nominate officers to undertake the remaining functions for which they will still retain accountability to the Foundation Trust.
- 6.6 The Chief Executive shall prepare the Scheme of Delegation and Reservation of Powers identifying their proposals, which shall be considered and approved by the Board of Directors, subject to any amendment, agreed during the discussion. The Chief Executive may periodically propose amendment to the Scheme of Delegation and Reservation of Powers which shall be considered and approved by the Board of Directors.
- 6.7 Nothing in the Scheme of Delegation and Reservation of Powers shall impair the discharge of the direct accountability to the Board of Directors of the Chief Finance Officer to provide

information to and advise the Board of Directors in accordance with statutory requirements. Outside these statutory requirements, the Chief Finance Officer shall be accountable to the Chief Executive for operational matters.

- 6.8 The arrangements made by the Board of Directors as set out in the Scheme of Delegation and Reservation of Powers shall have effect as if incorporated in these SOs, but for the avoidance of doubt, neither these SOs nor the Scheme of Delegation and Reservation of Powers form part of the Constitution.

### **Duty to report non-compliance with Standing Order**

- 6.9 If for any reason these Standing Orders are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance, shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board of Directors for action or approval. All members of the Board of Directors and officers have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these Standing Orders to the Chief Executive as soon as possible.

## **7 Declaration of interests**

- 7.1 These Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions must be read in conjunction with paragraph 40 and Annex 8 (Conflicts of Interest of Governors and Directors) of the Constitution which shall have effect as if incorporated in this Standing Order.
- 7.2 Notwithstanding the application of paragraph 40 of the Constitution, all members of the Board of Directors should declare the nature and extent of all relevant and material interests on appointment to the Foundation Trust and thereafter at the beginning of each financial year and when a declaration becomes inaccurate, incomplete or obsolete. Directors' interests should be recorded in the Board of Directors' minutes. Any changes of interests should be declared at the next meeting of the Board of Directors following the change occurring, recorded in the minutes of that meeting and added to the register of interests.
- 7.3 It is the obligation of the Director to inform the Secretary of the Trust in writing within seven (7) days of becoming aware of the existence of a relevant or material interest. The Secretary will amend the register of interest of Directors.
- 7.4 If members of the Board of Directors have any doubt about the relevance of an interest, this should be discussed with the Secretary or Chair.
- 7.5 During the course of a Board of Directors meeting, if a conflict of interest is established, the Director concerned should withdraw from the meeting and play no part in the relevant discussion or decision. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes voting on such an issue where a conflict is established. If there is a dispute as to whether a conflict of interest does exist, a majority will resolve the issue with the Chair having the casting vote.

### **Disability of Chair and Directors in proceedings on account of pecuniary interest**

- 7.6 Subject to the provisions of this Standing Order, if the Chair or a member of the Board of Directors has any Pecuniary Interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter is present a meeting of the Board of Directors at which the contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, they shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or vote on any question with respect to it.

- 7.7 Subject to applicable legislation, the Regulator may, subject to such conditions as it may think fit to impose, remove any disability imposed by this standing order in any case in which it appears to it in the interests of the National Health Service that the disability should be removed
- 7.8 The Board of Directors may exclude the Chair or a member of the Board of Directors from a meeting of the Board of Directors while any contract, proposed contract or other matter in which they have a Pecuniary Interest is under consideration.
- 7.9 This standing order applies to a Committee or a sub-committee and a joint committee as it does to the Board of Directors and applies to a member of any such Committee (whether or not they are also a Director) as it applies to a member of the Board of Directors.

#### **Interests of officers in contracts**

- 7.10 Any Director or Officer of the Foundation Trust who comes to know that the Foundation Trust has entered into or proposes to enter into a contract in which they or their spouse, civil partner or co-habitee has any Pecuniary Interest, direct or indirect, the Director or officer shall declare their interest by giving notice in writing of such fact to the Secretary as soon as practicable.
- 7.11 A Director or Officer should also declare to the Secretary any other employment or business of other relationship of theirs, or of their spouse, civil partner or co-habitee that conflicts, or might reasonably be predicted could conflict with the interests of the Foundation Trust.
- 7.12 The Foundation Trust will require interests, employment or relationships so declared to be entered in a register of interests of members of staff.

#### **Fit and proper person test**

- 7.13 As established by Regulation 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 ("**the Regulations**"), the Trust has a duty not to appoint a person or to allow a person to continue to be an Executive Director or equivalent or a Non-Executive Director of the Trust under given circumstances known as the "fit and proper persons test".
- 7.14 In accordance with its fit and proper person requirements policy, the Trust requires Executive and Non-Executive Directors of the Board of Directors to declare on appointment and thereafter annually that they remain a fit and proper person to be employed as a Director.
- 7.15 If members of the Board of Directors have any doubt about the Regulations or declarations, this should be discussed with the Secretary or Chair.
- 7.16 The consequences of false, inaccurate, or incomplete information by individuals subject to the Regulations may be their removal from office pending the outcome of an investigation.

### **Duty of candour**

- 7.17 As established by Regulation 20 of the Regulations, the Trust has a duty to act in an open and transparent way with people who use services and other 'relevant persons' (people acting lawfully on their behalf) in general in relation to care and treatment.
- 7.18 In accordance with its being open / duty of candour policy, the Trust requires that all relevant Officers apply the following key principles of candour when communicating with patients, their families and carers following a patient safety incident, complaint or claim where a patient was harmed:
1. acknowledge, apologise and explain when things go wrong;
  2. conduct a thorough investigation into the patient safety incident and reassuring patients, their families and carers that lessons learned will help prevent the patient safety incident recurring;
  3. provide support for those involved to cope with the physical and psychological consequences of what happened.

### **Canvassing of and recommendations by Directors in relation to appointments**

- 7.19 Directors or members of any Committee of the Board of Directors may be approached by candidates wishing to increase their understanding of the organisation during the appointment process. Informal discussions outside appointments panels or committees, whether solicited or unsolicited, should be declared to the appointing panel or committee.
- 7.20 Directors shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Foundation Trust or recommend any person for such appointment; but this Standing Order shall not preclude a Director from giving written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Foundation Trust.

### **Relatives of Directors or Officers**

- 7.21 Candidates for any staff appointment under the Foundation Trust shall, when making an application, disclose in writing to the Chief Executive whether they are related to any Director or the holder of any office under the Foundation Trust. Failure to disclose such a relationship shall disqualify a candidate and, if appointed, render them liable to instant dismissal.
- 7.22 The Chair and every Director and officer of the Foundation Trust shall disclose to the Chief Executive any relationship between themselves and a candidate of whose candidature that Director or officer is aware. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to report to the Board of Directors on any such disclosure made.
- 7.23 Prior to acceptance of any appointment, Executive Directors should disclose to the Chief Executive whether they are related to any other Director or holder of any office under the Foundation Trust.
- 7.24 On appointment, Directors should disclose to the Board of Directors whether they are related to any other Director or holder of any office under the Foundation Trust.
- 7.25 Where the relationship to a Director of the Foundation Trust is disclosed, Standing Orders in respect to the 'Disability of Chair and Directors in proceedings on account of pecuniary interest' shall apply.



## **8 Standards of business conduct policy**

- 8.1 Directors and officers should comply with the Foundation Trust's standards of business conduct policy and relevant codes of conduct.
- 8.2 Members of the Board of Directors must also comply with the Foundation Trust's annual declarations by Directors process.

## **9 Overlap with other policy statements, procedures, regulations and standing financial instructions**

### **Policy statements: general principles**

- 9.1 The Board of Director, Committees, sub-committees and joint committees will from time to time agree and approve policy statements and procedures which will apply to all or specific groups of officers of the Foundation Trust. The decisions to approve such policies and procedures will be recorded in an appropriate meeting minutes and will be deemed where appropriate to be an integral part of the Foundation Trust's Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions.

### **Specific policy statements**

- 9.2 These Standing Orders and the Standing Financial Instructions should be read in conjunction with the following policy statements:
  - 1. Standards of business conduct policy
  - 2. Disciplinary policy and procedure
  - 3. Appeals policy and procedure
  - 4. Raising concerns (whistleblowing) policy

all of which shall have effect as if incorporated in these Standing Orders.

### **Specific guidance**

- 9.3 These Standing Orders and the Standing Financial Instructions must be read in conjunction with current legislation and guidance and any other relevant guidance issued by the Regulator.

## **10 Custody of seal and sealing of documents**

### **Custody of seal**

- 10.1 The Secretary shall keep the seal of the Foundation Trust in a secure place.

### **Sealing of Documents**

- 10.2 Documents can only be sealed once they have been authorised by a resolution of the Board of Directors or of a committee thereof, or where the Board of Directors has delegated its powers.
- 10.3 Building, engineering, property or capital documents do not require authorisation by Board of Directors or a committee thereof, but before presenting for seal these documents do require the approval and signature of the Chief Finance Officer (or an officer nominated by them) and the authorisation and countersignature of the Chief Executive (or an officer nominated by them who shall not be within the originating directorate).
- 10.4 The fixing of the seal shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chair (or the Deputy Chair in the absence of the Chair) and one Executive Director.

### **Register of sealing**

- 10.5 An entry of every sealing shall be made in a record provided for that purpose, and shall be signed by the persons who shall have approved and authorised the document and those who attested the seal. A report of all sealings shall be made to the Board of Directors at least annually. The report shall contain details of the description of the document and date of sealing.

## **11 Signature of documents**

- 11.1 Where any document will be a necessary step in legal proceedings on behalf of the Foundation Trust, it shall, unless any enactment otherwise requires or authorises, be signed by the Chief Executive or nominated Executive Director.
- 11.2 The Chief Executive or nominated officers shall be authorised, by resolution of the Board of Directors, to sign on behalf of the Foundation Trust any agreement or other document not requested to be executed as a deed, the subject matter of which has been approved by the Board of Directors or any Committee, sub-committee or joint committee with delegated authority.



## **12 Miscellaneous**

### **Standing Orders to be given to Directors and Officers**

- 12.1 It is the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that existing Directors and Officers and all new appointees are notified of and understand their responsibilities within SOs and SFIs. Updated copies shall be issued to staff designated by the Chief Executive. New designated Officers shall be informed in writing and shall receive copies where appropriate of SOs.

### **Documents having the standing of Standing Orders**

- 12.2 SFIs and the Scheme of Delegation shall have effect as if incorporated into these Standing Orders.

### **Review of Standing Orders**

- 12.3 Standing Orders shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. The requirement for review extends to all documents having the effect as if incorporated in the Standing Orders.

### **Joint finance arrangements**

- 12.4 The Board of Directors may confirm contracts to purchase from a voluntary organisation or a local authority using its powers under Section 75 of the 2006 Act. The Board of Directors may confirm contracts to transfer money from the NHS to the voluntary sector or the health related functions of local authorities where such a transfer is to fund services to improve the health of the local population more effectively than equivalent expenditure on NHS services, using its powers under Section 75 of the 2006 Act.