Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
7th December 2011

TITLE	**APPOINTMENT OF LEAD GOVERNOR**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Under the Constitution the Council of Governors is able to appoint a Lead Governor. The role is outlined in the Constitution and also Monitor's Code of Governance. In February 2011 David Frank, Governor for Surrey Heath, was elected as Lead Governor for a one year period which expires in February 2012.
The Council is asked to:	Agree the process for electing the Lead Governor from February 2012 and the length of the appointment.
Submitted by:	Jane Gear Head of Corporate Affairs
Date:	12th November 2011
Decision:	To approve the process

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APPOINTMENT OF LEAD GOVERNOR

1 Background

This Governor is able to lead the Council in circumstances where it is not thought appropriate for the Chair or one of the other Non-Executive Directors to lead. These occasions are likely to be limited, but a typical example would be where there was a meeting which involved discussing the appointment of the Chairman.

The Lead Governor also has a specific role to play where the Governors need to communicate directly with Monitor. Usually communications with Monitor would be through the Chairman or Head of Corporate Affairs, but there might be exceptional circumstances where this is not appropriate. It is expected this would only occur where there is the possibility of a significant breach of the Trust's Terms of Authorisation.
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As the Council was newly formed, the initial election conducted in January 2011 was for a one year period in the first instance.

Process in 2010

In 2010 an outline person specification was circulated with the invitation for
. governors to nominate themselves as Lead Governor:

- Have the confidence of Governor colleagues and of members of the Board of Directors
- Be able to commit the time necessary
- Have the ability to influence and negotiate
- Be able to present well-reasoned argument
- Be committed to the success of the Foundation Trust
- Be able to demonstrate experience of chairing both large and small meetings effectively
- Demonstrate an understanding of the Trust's Constitution and how the Trust is influenced by other organisations.

A secret ballot was then conducted.
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2 Process 2011

It is suggested that a further secret ballot is conducted in January 2012 with the results being available for a decision at the Council of Governors' meeting on 15th February 2012. All Governors will be invited to nominate themselves and each candidate would be invited to provide a short candidate statement.

As the Council is now established and has been working for a year, it is suggested that the next appointment is for a three year period.

3 RECOMMENDATION

The Council agree the process for the appointment of the Lead Governor effective from 15 February 2012 and the length of the appointment.