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

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
13th September 2011

TITLE	**Feedback from FTN/FTGA Governor Development day**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Michèle Low, Steve McCarthy and Godfrey Freemantle attended the Governor Development Programme day hosted by the FTN/FTGA on 22nd July. A copy of the programme agenda is attached for reference. The three participants have compiled some feedback notes for discussion by the Council.
The Council is asked to:	Discuss next steps
Submitted by:	Michèle Low, Steve McCarthy and Godfrey Freemantle , Governors
Date:	3rd August 2011
Decision:	For discussion and next steps

NOTES ON FOUNDATION TRUST NETWORK EVENT 22/07/11

Three Governors attended a joint development programme day run jointly by the Foundation Trust Governor's association and the Foundation Trust Network. These sessions included some theoretical input and provided an opportunity for all those present to share practice from their organisations. The reflections of our three Governors are given below:

1. Governors & directors

More time with Executive Directors & NEDs
Get to know new Directors
More joined up among Governors' & Directors' sub committees
List all sub-committees & membership
Govs on board sub- committees
Clarity on lead governor role
Governors to drive the Council meeting agendas

2. Membership

Insufficient work
FTs focus on existing members rather than increasing new
Different levels, e.g. gold silver bronze?
What FTN publications available on recruiting more members?
Governors need more advice on how to recruit
Local events organised in the presence of Consultants/experts e.g. Diabetes, stroke etc enhanced attendance. Free health checks e.g. blood pressure is another draw

3. Governors' value

What is the point of Governors meetings apart from doing statutory duty?
Is the Board giving an account of itself to Governors?
Performance reporting presentation is poor
How can Governors see NEDs in operation? -- attending Board meetings is not enough.
One option is if Governors are represented on Board sub committees
Other Governors do hospital walk about
On-going training need especially to meet the new requirements for Governors under the Health and Social Care Bill

4. Patient safety

What is ASPH patient safety strategy?
How does ASPH benchmark against other FTs?
Emphasise it is good business to get it right – justifies expense?
Need to understand quality assurance better

5. Action possibilities

Governors /directors away day
Governors to meet separately
Governors to consider value of Council meetings & better reporting
Governors regular walk abouts
Meet new Directors
Governors' development group
Q&A sessions with Directors
Governors on Board sub- committees
Governors observe private meetings of Board
Governor training for new responsibilities under the Bill

Foundation Trust Governors' Association
Debate | Exchange | Learn

Foundation Trust Network

A JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR FOUNDATION TRUST GOVERNORS

22nd July 2011
London

AGENDA

10.15am	Arrival and coffee
10.30-10.35am	Welcome and Introductions
10.35-11.05am	**The NHS update – A national perspective on what it is and where it is going**
11.05 – 11.35am	**What governors think : results of recent Monitor governors' survey and implications for governors**
11.35 – 11.50am	**Coffee**
11.50 – 12.50pm	**Member communications - how do we know what members think?**
12.50 – 2.00pm	**Lunch**
2.00- 2.30pm	**The governor role in quality and quality accounts**
2.30 – 3.30pm	A choice of afternoon break out sessions: • **All things governance – from holding the board to account to our own accountability** • **Benchmarking the effectiveness of the Board of Governors** • **An introduction to NHS finance and how funding reaches your trust - a session for newer governors or a refresher for others**
3.30pm	**Tea and Close**

The programme is intended to give governors plenty of opportunity to meet other governors and learn how other boards of governors are operation. Come along ready to share your ideas and experiences.