

Strategic Projects Committee – Committee Self-Assessment February 2022

Establishment, Composition, Organisation, Resources, Duties		Strong	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Comments
1	The Strategic Projects Committee terms of reference clearly, adequately & realistically set out the Committee's role and nature and scope of its responsibilities and have been approved by the Committee and the Board of Directors.	X			ToR setting out scope & role of Committee last approved by Committee February 2021 and Feb 2022. Approved by Board April 2021 and on agenda March 2022.
2	The Board was active in its consideration of Strategic Projects Committee composition.	X			The Board has reviewed the Committee membership and business cycle in year following new NED appointments in 2020.
3	The Strategic Projects Committee's actions reflect independence, ethical behavior, adherence to good practice guidance and the best interests of the Trust and its stakeholders.	X			Actions based on review of independent reports & best interests of the Trust in recommendations to the Board.
4	The Strategic Projects Committee reports to the Board of Directors throughout the year demonstrating compliance with its terms of reference and provides the Board of Directors with assurance on the effective operation of systems and procedures within the remit of the Committee.	X			Each SPC set of Minutes and the corresponding SPC Chair's report are reviewed by the Board with key issues escalated to Board.

Establishment, Composition, Organisation, Resources, Duties		Yes	No	Comments
5	Are the terms of reference reviewed annually to take into account governance developments and the remit of other Committees within the organisation?	X		<p>Terms of reference are reviewed at least annually. Committee remit/planning processes allow for links with other committees.</p> <p>Role of the SPC has been reviewed in year with discussion and agreement about balance of workload between SPC and PC. Also the agreement on oversight of BAF risks through a single committee.</p>
6	Are changes to the Committee's current and future workload discussed and approved at Board level?	X		<p>Committee membership and business cycle agreed by the Board.</p> <p>The Board self-assessment considers the overarching work programme across committees (and historically set up the SPC to manage workload.)</p>

				The Committee is charged oversight of specific elements of the BAF.
7	Are Committee members able to act in the best interests of the Trust?	X		
Agenda Management, Oversight of the Reporting Process, Compliance with the Law and Regulations governing foundation trusts		Yes	No	Comments
8	Is the Committee's role in the scrutiny of the Trust's financial performance clearly defined and complementary to the Board of Directors?	X		Duties and delegated authority set out in ToR.
9	Does the Board of Directors ensure that Committee members have sufficient knowledge of the organisation to identify key risks and to challenge line management on critical and/or sensitive matters?	X		<p>Selection process for NEDs includes assessment of appropriate experience/skills and NEDs are appointed to contribute to through individual portfolios.</p> <p>The Board has established learning together programme has largely been on hold since 2020/21. NED development sessions held in 2021 on NHS finance.</p> <p>The NED Buddy programme builds on knowledge of the organisation but has largely been on hold during the last two years. NEDs have been invited to join CNO led visibility rounds that have been re-established in year.</p> <p>PC divisional presentations extended to all NEDs to provide opportunity for dialogue and triangulation of reports.</p> <p>NED training/development has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Providers Governance & Quality Forum - May 2021 • NHSE/I Audit & Finance Forum - November 2021 • NHS Providers NED Network February 2022

Oversight of Trust Processes		Strong	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Comments
10	There is appropriate consideration of assurance reports (from a variety of sources). The Board of Directors is clearly sighted on the issues that arise which require action by the Strategic Projects Committee.	X			<p>The Committee has received some independent assurance reports from a range of sources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRLI – Project Management Documentation. • NHS Digital/Mills & Reeve: in relation to Dedalus agreement. • Trust's Estate Strategy and FAR reporting including expert advice on the FAR programme. • Trust strategy 2020-25: one year review • Committee BAF reports • CBC NewCo: including solicitors advice on the proposed structures. • Expert advice on water systems • Forthcoming visit from Duke University Hospital, NC, USA

Overall Evaluation		Strong	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Comments
11	What is the overall assessment of the performance of the Strategic Projects Committee?	X			

Additional Comments:

The Committee noted that whilst there were some limits on collaboration with other bodies due to the confidential and commercial nature of some programmes, it had been able to bring together the hospital build brochure, and this would be shared across NHS partners as an example of good practice.