

Board Meeting in Public Tuesday, 24 September 2024

Title of Report	Governance Update	Agenda No.	5.1
Nature of Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Official	<input type="checkbox"/> Official Sensitive	
Author(s)	Silena Dominy, Company Secretary		
Lead Executive	Helen Gillan, Director of Quality		
Non-Executive Director Sponsor	Peter Wyman, Chair		
Presented for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update	
Executive Summary			
This report provides the Board with an update on corporate governance matters in NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), with the main focus for this meeting being on Board Level Policies and the Skills and Capability of the Board.			
Previously Considered by			
N/A			
Recommendation	The Board is asked to note the Governance update and specifically to approve a change of process to allow the People Committee to be the review body for the Resolutions Policy and Freedom to Speak Up Policy, in view of the nature of these policies.		
Risk(s) identified (Link to Board Assurance Framework Risks)			
BAF P11 Corporate Governance “There is a risk that the Board do not have full oversight of significant risk caused by ineffective systems or their application resulting in uninformed decision-making, a requirement for emergency management, suboptimal outcomes and reputational damage” The frequent review of governance arrangements ensures continuous improvement and oversight. It reduces the likelihood of the Board not fulfilling its duties, or stepping outside of its powers, therefore strengthens governance.			
Strategic Objective(s) this paper relates to:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborate with partners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invest in people and culture <input type="checkbox"/> Drive innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modernise our operations <input type="checkbox"/> Grow and diversify our donor base			
Appendices:	None.		

1. Background

This report provides the Board with an update on Corporate Governance matters in NHSBT.

2. Board Approved Policies

In June 2024 the Board approved the list of NHSBT policies that would be deemed to be Board Level Policies. As the title suggests these are the policies that are to be approved by the Board, or in some instances by Board Committees. A status update can be seen below.

At the People Committee on 20 September 2024, it was noted that the Dignity at Work Policy, Disciplinary Policy and Grievance Policy were being combined into a new Resolutions Policy, the format and content of which had been developed in consultation with the Trade Union. The Committee also reviewed the Freedom to Speak Up Policy which was now in the form of the NHS Policy which had been adopted by NHSBT. In view of the specific approaches for developing these policies it is recommended that it should be the People Committee, and not the Board, that reviews these policies for assurance in the future. Copies of the Resolutions Policy and Freedom to Speak Up Policy have been included in the Convene Review Room.

Policy	Board Approved	New BLP Format
Conflicts of Interest Policy (including Gifts and Hospitality Policy)	ARGC 16/05/2024 and Board 06/06/2024	Yes BLP1/1
Modern Slavery Statement	ARGC 18/07/2024 and Board 30/07/2024	Yes BLP3/2
Environment and Sustainability Statement	ARGC 12/09/2024 <i>proposed to Board 24/09/2024</i>	Yes BLPS1
Risk Management Policy	ARGC 12/09/2024 <i>proposed to Board 24/09/2024</i>	Yes pending BLP5/1
Safeguarding Policy	CGC 13/09/2024 format change only <i>* Full review January 2025</i>	Yes pending BLP4/1
Resolutions Policy (formerly Disciplinary, Grievance and Dignity at Work Policy)	People Committee noted policy content 20/09/2024	No, Trade Union agreed policy
Freedom to Speak up Policy	People Committee noted policy adopted 20/09/2024	No, NHS policy adopted by NHSBT
Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy Statement	<i>* November 2024</i>	
Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy	<i>* January 2025</i>	
Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy	<i>* March 2025</i>	

In 2025, consideration will be given to possible development of a whistleblowing policy to extend beyond the current focus of Freedom to Speak Up. Consideration will also be given to a possible audit policy to cover internal/external audit governance.

The status of the following policies, that are delegated to Board Committees for approval, is as follows:

	Committee Approved	
Fit and Proper Persons Regulations Policy	People Committee 03/07/2024	Yes, BLP2/1
Patient Safety Incident Response Framework Policy	Clinical Governance * <i>March 2025</i>	
Reserves Policy	Trust Fund * <i>March 2025</i>	

3. Board Skills and Capability

The annual skills, capability and diversity assessment has been completed and a separate report is included in relation to the findings.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Information in relation engagement of the Chair and Chief Executive with stakeholders and DHSC since the last meeting is included in the Convene Review Room.