

One of the duties of the Council of Governors is to appoint the non-executive directors (NEDs) to the Board of the Trust. In January 2019, we all took part in the process to appoint two new NEDs. Sheila and Jeanette were both members of the focus group, and Andrew was a member of the interview panel. There was a successful outcome, with two excellent candidates being offered posts.

The Council of Governors also approved the appointment of Simon Morrill to the post of Chief Executive for the Trust. He will commence in post in early August. In addition, Sheila took part in the focus group for the appointment of the new chief nurse.

Sheila and Jeanette attended a Governor training day in Leeds organised by NHS provider, which covered several interesting aspects of the role of a Foundation Trust governor.

Sheila is now a member of the Patient Experience steering group which looks at all aspects of patient care, including patient complaints, the results of the Friends and Family tests. This feeds into ways to improve the care given to our patients.

Jeanette is now a member of the Fairness Forum, which covers many aspects of staff employment and satisfaction including areas such as diversity in our employees and ensuring that problems for any staff are given consideration. Equality and diversity for patients is also part of the group's remit.

We all attended a Council of Governors to Board meeting in April where we are able to ask questions of the NEDs and executive officers. We asked about the progress of the East Coast Review and received copies of the initial report. Recruiting and retaining staff is a major issue on the East Coast. Further to this, Andrew has read the report and has written a very full and comprehensive letter to the Humber Coast and Vale Sustainability and Transformation Plan Board. He has made his letter available to all governors in the Council of Governors Public meeting in June. Other topics covered included the five year strategy plan, progress on the greater use of information technology in health care and the change in management structure to six care groups with the aim of strengthening clinical management.

Sheila has highlighted some success from the Transport group - the Pool/Car hire scheme for staff has achieved saving of £ 56,000 in one year. The new Park and Ride bus service from the Rawcliffe Park and Ride commenced at the end of April and in the first week 487 people used the service, of which 117 were pensioners. One passenger said how wonderful it was to be dropped off so near the hospital entrance.

Sheila has also spent a day meeting the Allied Health Professionals at White Cross Court.

Jeanette Anness
Sheila Miller
Andrew Butler