

HSP Board

22nd October 2008

Governance Arrangements

1. Introduction

This report presents to the Board for approval the Governance arrangements that have evolved over the last 12 months.

2. Recommendation

That the Board considers the amendments (shown as tracked changes on the attached version of the Governance Handbook) and other suggestions that may arise during debate and adopts a final version of the arrangements for immediate implementation.

3. Background.

3.1 For well rehearsed reasons, the Partnership has been exploring new governance arrangements over the last 12 months. A version of the Governance Handbook was presented to the Board at the last meeting in August and various amendments proposed particularly to the extent of membership of the Assembly. That meeting then deferred adoption of the Governance Handbook to allow for further consultation and reflection.

3.2 Since that meeting several comments have been received which are reflected in tracked changes on the attached version of the Handbook. The majority of the changes refer to a proposal to change the names of two of the Partnership bodies. It has been suggested that the term "Assembly" is no longer appropriate for a body comprising some 29 members and that, instead, this group should be called the Partnership Board. This, in turn, would require a new name to be adopted for the smaller group which it had been intended to call the Harrow Board. The new suggestion is that this group should be known as the Harrow Chief Executives.

3.3 The other significant comment is on page 25 where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to pass on the comment of the Chief Executive of the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust that the revised governance arrangements would diminish the ability of the Trust to contribute to joint working. It is understood that the Trust believes that it should be a member of the Harrow Chief Executives' Group.

3.4 Other changes are minor clarifications.

Tom Whiting
Assistant Chief Executive