

Council of Governors

Date of meeting:	10 December 2025
Report Title:	Lead and Deputy Lead Governor Election
Executive/NED Lead:	George Chalkias, Director of Governance
Report author(s):	Ann Filby, Trust Secretary
Action required:	Approval

Executive summary

There is a regulatory expectation that each Foundation Trust will have a Lead Governor in place to support any necessary communication between regulators and the Council. For this Trust, relevant provisions have been placed in the Standing Orders of the Council. On 25 September 2025 the Council confirmed the appointments to the roles of Interim Lead and Interim Deputy Lead Governors prior to the new Council being in place from 1 November 2025. Their term of office was confirmed as 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026.

The requirements of the Trust's Constitution are set out below:

17 Council of Governors – Meetings of Governors

17.1 The Chair or, in their absence, the Deputy Chair, or in their absence one of the other Non-Executive Directors of the Trust, shall preside at meetings of the Council of Governors. If the person presiding at any such meeting has a conflict of interest in relation to the business being discussed, the Lead Governor of the Council of Governors shall chair that part of the meeting.

17.2 The Council of Governors will appoint from amongst its number, a Lead Governor. The role and responsibilities and details of tenure for the Lead Governor are detailed in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 of Annex 5.

3.5 Selection of Lead Governor

3.5.1 The lead Governor role is open to all Governors, including staff and appointees, but not the Chair.

3.5.2 The term of office is three years, or the remainder of their term of office, serving a maximum of six years.

3.5.3 Those wishing to stand can nominate themselves. Those wishing to nominate another Governor should only do so with that person's permission.

3.5.4 The Director of Governance will request nominations for the role of lead Governor.

3.5.5 Subject to the number of candidates for the role the Director of Governance will establish a confidential ballot mechanism to elect the lead Governor.

3.5.6 The lead Governor's contact details shall be provided to NHS England and updated as required.

At ESNEFT the Council has confirmed that a Deputy Lead Governor is required. Their selection is undertaken in the same way.

The role description is attached. This includes the process for nomination and selection. During December nominations for both roles will be requested by the Associate Director of Risk, Governance and Compliance. If more than one governor expresses an interest for either role, an electronic ballot will be held with the result announced shortly thereafter.

Formal ratification of the appointments is scheduled for the Council of Governors in March 2026.

Action Required of the Council

The Council is invited to **confirm** the process to select a Lead Governor and a Deputy Lead Governor with effect from 1 February 2026.