

Membership and Engagement Working Group: precis of meeting, 30 September 2025

1. Welcome and apologies for absence:

In attendance - Martin Nixon - **Chair**, Light Onyekachi, Pride Mukungurutse, Caroline Bowden, Paul Gaffney, Jane Simpson, Laura da Rita

Apologies – Helen Rose, Ann Filby, Roger Blake, John Cook, Sam Glover, David Guest, Jess Gallagher

2. Declarations of interest – none.

3. Summary of previous meeting, 22 May 2025

The summary of May's meeting was agreed as accurate.

4. Communications and Engagement Slides

Slides provided by Jess Gallagher and team were presented to the group. An update was provided about Get Involved, previous and future engagement opportunities, the recent MyChart briefing and health talks. The group discussed the next health talk and agreed the focus should be on weight management. PM noted the need to understand if the talk will focus on adult or child weight management. It may be better to focus on adult, with information provided to support parents managing their children's weight too. The Chair noted the need to concentrate on prevention rather than cure as this is the ethos of the health talks. It was suggested the next health talk should be held in the new year. There has been a previous suggestion of working in collaboration with Kingsland Church and Community Centre in Colchester.

The group asked if the MyChart briefing slides could be shared with all governors.

LdR to share MyChart slides with the Council.

LdR to work with AF to liaise with the weight management team to understand what they would be able to present at a health talk.

LdR to speak to Kingsland Church to see if a collaborative event would be possible and/or if space can be hired for a health talk.

5. Membership Engagement Plan Update

1a) Get Involved circulation dates were discussed as part of the communication update. The Council were made aware of the issues with sending a summer edition/election special due to technical issues with the Civica database.

1b) Engagement opportunities were discussed. The group spoke about the upcoming Annual Members Meeting. LdR explained an invite will be extended to all current and new Council members. A number of stands will be exhibiting at the event, including a governors stand. LdR asked for volunteers to support this stand. A wider request will be shared with the Council alongside invites in the near future.

The group also discussed training and development opportunities and LdR asked for any suggestions or feedback. A governor feedback form has been built on an MS Form, and a link has been shared with all governors. The new Council will likely focus on this at their development session in February 2026. The group explained the MyChart briefing was useful.

2a) The group reflected on the topics raised in the most recent Governors' quarterly briefing.

2d) LO and PM provided an update from a staff governor perspective. LO explained the staff governor lanyards continue to be useful, helping colleagues identify staff governors making

them more approachable. PM explained that engagement at this year's election has been far greater than before. The number of staff nominated to stand and the number of colleagues wishing to vote has increased. Colleagues are also recognising staff governors from the intranet. It would be good to keep this trend going into the next election, doing everything we can to ensure staff engage with the process.

LdR explained that currently we are unable to have direct access to edit the intranet and website. Ongoing communications with Digital Team to update Governor information.

3a) Health talks were discussed as part of the communication update. The group suggested the next talk be held in January or February 2026 in Colchester.

4a) The group reviewed the membership report and noted it is useful to see a breakdown of information. There was a discussion about the value of some of the data presented. The Chair asked how the wards are decided.

LdR to review the data available via Civica.

LdR to speak to Civica to see how the wards are broken down.

4b) The group discussed the election timeline and the information provided at the Council of Governor Meeting on 25 September 2025. LdR explained that AF has now spoken to all candidates, regardless of if they were successful or not. All successful candidates have been written to by the Interim Chair of the Trust and induction paperwork has been sent out. An induction day is planned for 5 November 2025. The Chair suggested it would be useful to understand the demographic of the new Council and where they live within the newly formed Essex and Suffolk constituencies.

LdR to create a map of council member locations to be presented at the next meeting.

6. Working Group Terms of Reference

The group discussed that the Terms of Reference for this group were signed off at the Council meeting on 25 September 2025. No further amendments were suggested.

7. Any other Business

The group discussed the Annual Members meeting as part of engagement opportunities. Invites will be shared with Council members in due course.

The Annual Report has been laid before parliament, with a link available in the September Council papers.

The group discussed the ongoing membership plan and the need to refresh it in line with the membership of this group changing with the new Council. LdR explained the need to focus on being more strategic in line with the Council's responsibility to congress opinion on a forward plan based on objectives, priorities and strategies while communicating these views to the Board of Directors.

8. Next meeting

November 2025. Date and location TBC. The current Chair suggested this be decided with the new Council at the induction event in early November.