

Queries arising from a meeting of Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) held on 25 November 2011

Q. Why are you only proposing to appoint two Local Authority members to the Council of Governors?

A. The Foundation Trust legislation (NHS Acts 2003 and 2006) requires us to have one Local Authority as an Appointed Governor. However we have chosen to increase this number and have two Local Authorities represented on our Council of Governors to ensure we have a broader geographical spread of Yorkshire and a good urban/rural mix.

Q How will you break down your budgets into different areas taking account of differing service user needs?

A Our budgets are provided through the income we derive from our commissioners to deliver ambulance services in Yorkshire. There will be no difference to how we are commissioned to deliver ambulance services whether we are an NHS Trust or a Foundation Trust.

Q What is the process for electing Appointed Governors?

A Appointed Governors are appointed by the Foundation Trust, not elected. This is covered in Schedule 7 of the NHS Act 2006.

Q How will you ensure that the Appointed Governors are representative of Yorkshire in terms of diversity and location etc?

A We have taken a lot of care to represent within our Appointed Governors a good geographical spread, a mix of rural and urban locations and a spread of the partners with whom we work closely.

Q Will you be paying any more money than just travelling expenses to the Appointed Governors?

A No.

Q Can the Trust set its own pay scales, and terms and conditions? Specifically, the Chief Executive Officer salary?

A Yes as a Foundation Trust we can set our own pay scales and terms and conditions though, to date, all Foundation Trusts have stayed within the existing national pay framework (Agenda for Change).

As a Foundation Trust the Board of Directors must establish a remuneration committee composed of at least non-executive directors. This remuneration committee has delegated responsibility for setting remuneration of all executive directors including the Chief Executive Officer.

Q Emergency service partners – have you only chosen to invite the police onto your Council of Governors?

A Yes. We want to have a small Council of Governors and have approached West Yorkshire Police to become an Appointed Governor as they represent a large emergency service with whom we have a close working relationship.

Q If you overspend on the annual budget, what would happen? Would you be bailed out, or would you have to get a loan?

A Foundation Trusts are independent organisations that must remain in financial balance. This is one of the key terms of authorisation as a Foundation Trust.

Q If you offer mutual aid to another service eg. another Foundation Trust, who would pick up the costs?

A This will be done in the same way it is done now.