


Council of Governors paper	Guy's and St Thomas'  NHS Foundation Trust	
Change in the Constitution to allow electronic voting	28th January 2015	(CG/15/02)

This paper is for:		Sponsor:	Membership Development Involvement & Communication working group (MeDIC)	
Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Author:	Trust Secretary	
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reviewed by:		
Noting	<input type="checkbox"/>	CEO*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	ED*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Board Committee*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		TME*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Other*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MeDIC - 2 nd December 2014

* Specify

Summary

The Council of Governors is invited to approve a change to the Trust's constitution to enable electronic voting at elections for the Council. The Annual Public meeting later in the year will be invited to confirm the amendment.

The Constitution is the legal framework for regulating the affairs of the Trust including the election of Governors in the public, patient and staff constituencies (stakeholder governors are nominated by their sponsoring organisations). From the outset, the Trust has adopted and model election rules from the Electoral Reform Society and contracted the organisation of its election to the ERS. This proposal does not affect that arrangement.

The Trust has a legal obligation to develop a membership that is representative of the members it serves and, by analogy that also stretches to the Council of Governors. Enabling a variety of methods of being able to vote would support that aim.

Request to the Council of Governors

The Council of Governors is invited to approve that the Trust's constitution is amended to delete the current set of model rules and the attached version adopted for the 2015 and forthcoming elections or until further modified.

Proposal

The ERS has recently amended its model election rules to add e-voting to its ways of electing governors. By this it means being able to vote via the internet, telephone or text. The system is secure as each voter will have to give their voter ID number (issued with the election notice) and make a declaration of identity and so prevent voters from voting more than once or for more candidates than they are entitled to support.

The Trust's lawyers, BAC Beachcroft LLP have confirmed that the Model Rules are legally drawn up and do not contradict anything in the Constitution; they form the annex to this paper.

Recommendation

The Council of Governors is invited to approve that the Trust's constitution is amended to delete the current set of model rules and the attached version adopted for the 2015 and forthcoming elections or until further modified.

Appendix A - Model election rules 2014