

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
Tuesday 16 September 2025 @ 15:30 – 16:30
MLCC, Meeting Room 10, 3rd Floor, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

AGENDA

Agenda No.	ITEM	PAPER REF	LEAD	PURPOSE	TIME
1	Chair's Welcome, Apologies and Confirmation of Quorum	Verbal	Sir David	To inform & assure	15:30
2	Register of Declarations of Interest	None	Sir David	To inform & assure	15:35
3	Minutes of the Previous WHT Annual General Meeting held on 24 September 2024	Enclosure 3	Sir David	To approve	15:36
4	Review of the Year 2024-25	Presentation	J Chadwick-Bell	To inform	15:41
4.1	The Annual Report Summary and Financial Position (Audited Accounts) 2024/25	Presentation	J Chadwick-Bell K Stringer	To inform & Assure	15:51
5	General Business (Section Heading)				
5.1	Questions received from the Public, Staff and other Stakeholders	Verbal	Sir David	To inform	16:01
5.2	Closing Remarks	Verbal	Sir David	To inform	16:30
MEETING CLOSE					

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 10:30AM
BESCOTT STADIUM, WALSALL, WS1 4SA

ATTENDEES

Sir D Nicholson	Group Chair
Mr P Assinder	Non-Executive Director/ Deputy Chair
Mr N Hobbs	Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Operating Officer
Mr K Stringer	Group Chief Financial Officer/ Group Deputy Chief Executive
Mr S Evans	Group Chief Strategy Officer
Mr A Duffell	Group Chief People Officer
Dr J Odum	Group Chief Medical Officer
Mr K Bostock	Group Director of Assurance
Ms S Evans	Group Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
Ms L Carroll	Chief Nursing Officer
Ms R Barber	Associate Non-Executive Director
Ms M Martin	Non-Executive Director
Mr J Hemans	Non-Executive Director
Dr B Mckaig	Interim Chief Medical Officer

Apologies

Ms C Walker	Interim Group Chief Executive Officer
Ms D Brathwaite	Non-Executive Director
Prof L Toner	Non-Executive Director
Ms S Cartwright	Group Director of Place
Ms O Muflahi	Associate Non-Executive Director
Ms F Frizzell	Associate Non-Executive Director

In Attendance:

Mr K Wilshire	Group Company Secretary
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AGM020/24
Welcome and introduction by the chairman

Sir David welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received and noted. He confirmed the Annual General Meeting as quorate.

AGM021/24
Register of declarations of interest

Sir David confirmed that there were no further declarations of interest pertaining to the agenda that had not already been received and published.

AGM022/24
Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held 28 September 2023

Sir David confirmed there were no revisions or changes to the minutes presented and confirmed them as an accurate record.

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held 28 September 2023 be received as an accurate record.

AGM023/24
Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held 28 September 2023

Sir David confirmed that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 September 2023.

AGM024/24
Review of the Year – Annual Report Summary 2023/24

Mr Stringer thanked Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHT) staff for all their hard work throughout the year 2023/24.

Mr Stringer reported on the Trusts successful year in 2023/24 and highlighted some of the key successes as:

1. Tier 3 Severe Asthma Centre opened at Walsall Manor Hospital
2. Hundreds of patients supported through Virtual Wards

3. A pilot scheme to better involve carers whose loved ones are patients launched
4. National accredited 'Surgical Hub' awarded by NHS England
5. A first in the region – a patient had his throat cancer removed through robotic surgery

Mr Stringer advised that there was continued demand on urgent and emergency care services alongside increased pressure to continually improve patient flow and capacity.

Mr Stringer reported that workforce recruitment and retention would remain an area of focus alongside staff morale.

Mr Stringer advised that there had been impacts on elective services as a result of continued strike action.

Mr Stringer reported that joint working across WHT and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) had strengthened. He said WHT continued to work alongside system partners such as Walsall Together and the Black Country Provider Collaborative.

Mr Stringer advised that WHT and RWT had formed a new Group Trust Board to further strengthen joint working across sites. He said the first Group Trust Board meeting had taken place on 16 July 24.

Mr Stringer reported that some of the key objectives WHT would focus on throughout 2024/25 were as noted:

1. Reducing the waiting lists
2. Focus on research and innovation – expanding commercial trials
3. Reducing our carbon footprint
4. Maintaining low vacancy rates
5. Maximising partnership working to deliver innovation at scale
6. Health Inequalities Strategy – focusing on reducing health inequalities across our populations

AGM025/24 Quality Account Summary 2023/24

Ms Carroll advised that the Quality Account Summary 2023/24 provided information on progress against the agreed key priorities, which included patient care, workforce and patient experience. She said the Quality Account Summary 2023/24 would set out priorities and plans for the forthcoming year 2024/25.

Ms Carroll reported that WHT had implemented a five-year strategy and Quality Framework which was shared with RWT as Group Partner.

Ms Carroll advised that WHT Quality Priorities for 2023/24 had been split into 3 categories Patient Safety, Clinical Effectiveness and Patient Experience.

1. Patient Safety

Ms Carroll advised that the transition to Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) had been achieved against the national deadline and a Patient Safety Incident Response Policy and Plan had been created. She said the Learn from patient safety events (LFPSE) transition had been completed in February 24.

Ms Carroll reported that Medical Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) had supported a 62% increase in activity. She said WHT had expanded intermediate care services and there had been excellent progress in a range of performance metrics.

Ms Carroll advised that WHT had submitted a gap analysis highlighting the Trust's self-assessment against five domains of Quality Management System. She said Quality Improvement (QI) training had been delivered to 97 managers, heads of departments and leads and there were 13 active huddle boards across the Trust.

2. Clinical Effectiveness

Ms Carroll reported that 5,288 substantive staff had been employed and the Trust had welcomed 46 Nurses and 45 Medical and Dental internationally educated colleagues.

Ms Carroll advised that the number of patients waiting more than 62 days for treatment had reduced and the Trust had achieved the 28-day faster diagnosis standard with 75% of patients referred by the GP had cancer diagnosed or ruled out within 28 days.

Ms Carroll reported that the Theatre Expansion case had funded an additional 6.5 theatre sessions per week and the Trust had undertaken an outpatient transformation project.

Ms Carroll advised that WHT had gained Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) Elective Hub Accreditation Status. She said by the end of March 24 the Trust would have eliminated elective waiting times over 65 weeks.

3. Patient Experience

Ms Carroll reported that Patient Partners had participated in elective care recovery focus groups. She said Patient Partners had also conducted a 15 steps review of Neonatal and Maternity Services.

Ms Carroll advised that Little Voices partners had reviewed Children and Young People services and the Little Voices initiative was awarded as overall winner at the National Patient Experience Network Awards.

Ms Carroll reported that the Trust had adopted the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) complaints standard and had developed a tool kit.

Ms Carroll advised that WHT would continue to support staff to develop a culture of learning to improve care and experience for patients.

AGM026/24

Audited Accounts Summary for the year ending 31st March 2024

Mr Stringer reported that 2023/24 had been a challenging year due to the increase in pace of elective recovery and remaining pressures from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Stringer advised that WHT had ended the year 2023/24 with a £8.6m deficit and had a closing cash balance of £20.1m.

Mr Stringer reported that WHT had achieved a 90.5% value and 90.6% volume of suppliers paid on time.

Mr Stringer advised that WHT accounts had been fully audited by Mazars and represented a true and fair view of the Trusts financial performance.

Mr Stringer reported that WHTs total income for 2023/24 had been £432.9m.

Mr Stringer advised that NHS income comprised of 3 sources and these were listed as below:

1. Black Country Integrated Care Board - £353.2m
2. NHS England - £34.9m
3. NHS Providers - £5.8m
- 4.

Mr Stringer reported that largest expenditure percentage was staff costs at £283.5m. He said there had been an increase in staffing spend of 7.1% due to the pay award and inflation.

Mr Stringer advised that there had been significant capital investments undertaken during 2023/24 that had covered a range of areas with a total of £22.7m spent.

Mr Stringer reported that finances remained uncertain for 2024/25 due to the reasons noted below:

- Resources for 2024/25 were significantly constrained across the NHS.
- The Black Country Integrated Care System funding allocation remained above the fair share (funding formula) and therefore growth would be restricted.
- The planned and forecast deficit for 2024/25 would need to be recovered over future years.
- The opening of Midland Metropolitan University Hospital and closure of the Emergency Department in the current Sandwell Hospital had potential to see a growth in activity at Walsall Urgent and Emergency Care Centre.

- The cost and provision of social care having an impact on fit to discharge patients
- Increasing number of ambulances bringing patients from elsewhere in the Black Country and Birmingham

AGM027/24**Questions received from staff, public and other stakeholders**

Sir David asked when the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UEC) had opened at WHT. Mr Hobbs confirmed the UEC had opened in March 23. Sir David reported that the UEC had been a remarkably successful development.

AGM028/24**Closing remarks**

Sir David thanked all staff for their handwork and dedication to the residents of Walsall and closed the Annual General Meeting.

DRAFT