What does governance mean in today’s NHS – and how can NHS Trusts and other bodies put it into practice?

This one-day conference focuses upon the practical steps Trust secretaries and their colleagues need to take to deliver and apply governance within their organisations. In the morning, our speakers consider the mechanisms, relationships and behaviours which drive governance, from the different roles played by boardroom colleagues to the use of committees. Then, in the afternoon, we examine the outward-looking aspects of governance, and the relationship between delivering assurance on the one hand, and meeting compliance on the other.

Programme

08.30 Conference opens, registration and tea/coffee

09.15 Opening remarks

09.20 KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
   Putting governance into practice
   SPEAKER TBC

09.45 Examining board dynamics
   NHS governance encompasses a range of players – from non-executives to chairmen, governors to health authorities, members to patients – and at the heart of that network of relationships is the board. But good governance is about more than just compliance – it’s about behaviours. How can Trust secretaries manage their board colleagues effectively to bring out the very best from them?
   SPEAKERS:
   Jenny Hill, Consulting Director, Echelon Learning Ltd
   Michael Parker, Chairman, King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
   + 1 other TBC

10.45 Tea/coffee

11.15 Lynchpins of good governance
   Trust secretary, board secretary – the job title may vary as much as the challenges faced by, and demands placed upon, secretaries in different parts of the NHS. But what makes the difference between a competent secretary and an excellent one? And what role can the secretary play in driving better governance?
   SPEAKER: Mark Wearden, Head of Governance, Capita Registrars

11.45 Talking shops?
   Are NHS Trusts too dependent upon the use of committees? Are there too many committees in the sector – and are they all fit for purpose? And who needs a ‘governance committee’, anyway? This session looks at whether Trusts really use committees to deliver value – or whether legal obligation has outweighed organisational and clinical need.
   SPEAKERS TBC

12.45 Lunch
13.35 Managing risk, delivering assurance
NHS Trusts daily face a unique and varied set of risks – financial, corporate and clinical. But how can boards trust the information presented to them? This session considers the link between information, audit and assurance.

SPEAKER TBC

14.05 Hallmarks of quality
The new quality accounts regulations come into effect on 1 July and bring with them a new framework for accountability and stakeholder engagement in the NHS. But what do quality accounts involve? How can they add value – and how to get PCTs and Foundation Trusts working together on them?

SPEAKER: Ann Farrar, Chief Operating Officer, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

14.35 Compliance – cost or opportunity?
Tough compliance rules place stringent obligations upon Trusts when it comes to reporting – but are those rules too tough? Does the obligation to comply discourage transparency? This session looks at how Trusts can work towards more meaningful reporting – and at how a cost can be turned into an opportunity.

SPEAKER TBC

15.05 Tea/coffee

15.30 The lie of the land
NHS Trusts operate within different environments and with a range of different stakeholders. How can boards map that environment, and engage with those stakeholders – what kinds of data do they need, and how can they respond to changes? And what room is there for patient experience in governance?

SPEAKERS TBC

16.15 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:
Common interests
Over the last few years the governance agenda has moved from the corporate sector into touching all types of organisation in the UK. So what can different sectors learn from one another? In this session, representatives from across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors share their experiences.

SPEAKERS
Victoria Whyte, Deputy Company Secretary, GlaxoSmithKline plc
+ others TBC

17.00 Closing remarks