South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Terms of Reference
Approved by Trust Board 27 April 2021

The Committee is a Committee of the Board and has no executive powers other than those specifically delegated in these terms of reference and, as appropriate, by the Trust Board. Committees are expected to conduct their business in accordance with the 7 principles of public life (Nolan principles): selflessness, integrity, objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership.

Purpose
The Equality and Inclusion Committee's prime purpose is to ensure the Trust improves the diversity of its workforce and embeds diversity and inclusion in everything it does, through promoting the values of inclusivity and treating people with respect and dignity. The Committee will develop and oversee a strategy, including an approach to positive action, to improve access, experience and outcomes for people from all backgrounds and communities, including people who work and volunteer for the organisation, those who use Trust services and their families, and those who work in partnership with the Trust to improve the health and well-being of local communities.

Membership
The Equality and Inclusion Committee is chaired by a Non-Executive Director. At least one other Non-Executive Director also sits on the Forum as well as relevant Directors of the Trust.

Membership as at 1 April 2021
Chair – Chair of the Trust – Angela Monaghan
Non-Executive Director – Chris Jones
Non-Executive Director – Erfana Mahmood
Non-Executive Director – Mike Ford
Chief Executive – Rob Webster
Lead Director - Salma Yasmeen – Director of Strategy
Director of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Estates – Alan Davis

Attendance
Technical support is provided by Human Resources Managers and Equality and Engagement Development Managers, who are in attendance. A Governor (appointed by the Members' Council), the staff side representative with lead for equality and diversity, a representative from each of the staff equality networks, and a representative for each BDU equality forum, is also invited to attend meetings. Other directors and relevant officers attend the Committee by invitation. Administrative support is provided by the Personal Assistant to the Lead Director.

With all of us in mind.

Quorum

The quorum will be half of the membership which must include one Non-Executive Director and one Director; however, members are expected to attend all meetings. In the unusual event that the Chair is absent from the meeting, the Committee will agree another Non-Executive Director to take the chair. In the absence of executive Director members, deputies are permitted to attend, however they will not form part of the quorum.

Frequency of meetings

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year and be reviewed every twelve months.

Duties

- To promote the values of inclusivity, mainstreaming equality, diversity and inclusion across the Trust.
- To monitor, scrutinise and provide assurance to Trust Board that the Trust has a co-ordinated approach to promoting the values of inclusivity developed in partnership with other key stakeholders including service users, carers, staff and Members' Council.
- To monitor and provide assurance to Trust Board that the Trust is embedding diversity and inclusion in all its activities and functions.
- To monitor, scrutinise and provide assurance to Trust Board that the Trust is compliant with legal and national guidance, including Equality Delivery System (EDS2), the Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES), and the Workforce Disability Equality Standard (WDES).
- To agree an annual work plan that links to the Trust's strategic direction, workforce plan and the wider priority programmes and to monitor progress.

Monitoring

The Committee will monitor its performance both in terms of providing assurance to Trust Board and in terms of ensuring it meets the remit as set out in its terms of reference through agreement of an annual work plan, inclusion in the work plan of any items delegated to the Committee by Trust Board and through the Assurance Framework, monitoring implementation of the annual work plan, assessment of the Committee's performance through an annual self-assessment, and an evaluation of the Committee's performance through an annual report to Trust Board.

The Committee will assess, measure and evaluate its impact, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and include the outcome of this in its annual report to the Audit Committee and to Trust Board.

Reporting to Trust Board

Trust Board will receive the approved minutes of Committee at the next Trust Board meeting following the Committee meeting at which they are approved. The Committee will also report to the Board annually on its work (see above).

All Trust Board committees have a responsibility to ensure they foster and maintain relationships and links between the Forums / Committees and Trust Board. Each committee also has a responsibility to ensure actions identified and agreed are placed within the organisation either through the Executive Management Team or other internal groups, such as Trust-wide Action Groups.

Reporting requirements into the Committee

The Equality and Inclusion Committee received regular performance reports on Equality Standards, Equality Delivery System and Equality Impact Assessments., plus feedback from staff networks and development programmes.

The Committee receives the annual reports on equality and diversity, Workforce Disability Equality Standard and Workforce Race Equality Standard before submission to Trust Board.

Authority

The Committee is authorised by Trust Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference. It is authorised to seek any information it requires from any employee and all employees are directed by Trust Board to co-operate with any request made by the Committee. The Committee is also authorised by Trust Board to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.

Next review due: April 2022