

CODE OF GOVERNANCE SECTION B .1.4

B.1.4. The board of directors should include in its annual report a description of each director's skills, expertise and experience. Alongside this, in the **annual report**, the board should make a clear statement about its own balance, completeness and appropriateness to the requirements of the NHS foundation trust. Both statements should also be available on the NHS foundation trust's **website**.

A STATEMENT ABOUT THE BALANCE, COMPLETENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE BOARD

The Board currently comprises the Chairman, Chief Executive, 5 other Executive Directors and 6 other Non Executive Directors. There is a clear separation of the roles of the Chairman and the Chief Executive, which has been set out in writing and agreed by the Board. The Chairman has responsibility for the running of the Board, setting the Agenda for the Trust and for ensuring that all Directors are fully informed of matters relevant to their roles. The Chief Executive has responsibility for implementing the strategies agreed by the Board and for managing the day to day business of the Trust.

All of the Non Executive Directors, are considered to be independent in accordance with the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance. While, on appointment, the Chairman has to meet the Code's 'test of independence' it does not, thereafter, apply to this role.

The Board considers that the Non Executive Directors bring a wide range of business, commercial and financial knowledge required for the successful direction of the Trust. This includes clinical and financial matters in particular.

All Directors are equally accountable for the proper management of the Trust's affairs.

All Directors are subject to an annual review of their performance and contribution to the management and leadership of the Trust.

At the present time the Board is satisfied as to its balance, completeness and appropriateness and will keep these matters under review.