

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

**Board of Directors
Standing Orders
November 2025**

STANDING ORDERS

November 2025

FOREWORD

NHS Foundation Trusts need to agree Standing Orders (SOs) for the regulation of their proceedings and business. The Board of Directors are also required to adopt a “Schedule of matters reserved” and a “Scheme of Delegation” which, together with Standing Financial Instructions, provide a regulatory framework for the business conduct of the Trust. They fulfil the dual role of protecting the Trust’s interests and protecting staff from any possible accusation that they have acted less than properly. All executive and non-executive directors, and all members of staff, should be aware of the existence of these documents and, where necessary, be familiar with the detailed provisions.

It is acknowledged within these Standing Orders and the Standing Financial Instructions of the Trust that the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer will have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the Trust Board meets its obligation to perform its functions within the financial resources available.

Provisions within the Standing Orders which are not subject to suspension under SO 3.32 are indicated in italics.

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INTRODUCTION

Statutory Framework

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust) is a Public Benefit Corporation which was established which came into existence on 1 October 2008 as Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust pursuant to authorisation of Monitor under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003. The name of the Trust was changed to Bolton NHS Foundation Trust in 2011.

The principal place of business of the Trust is:

Royal Bolton Hospital
Minerva Road
Bolton
BL4 0JR

The functions of the Trust are conferred by the 2006 Act and the Trust will exercise its functions in accordance with the terms of its provider licence (No. 130014) and all relevant legislation and guidance.

As a public benefit corporation the Trust has specific powers to contract in its own name and to act as a corporate Trustee. In the latter role it is accountable to the Charity Commission for those funds deemed to be charitable. The Trust also has a common law duty as a bailee for patients' property held by the Trust on behalf of patients.

The constitution requires the Trust to adopt Standing Orders (SOs) for the regulation of its proceedings and business. This document, together with Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) and Scheme of Delegation set out the responsibilities of individuals.

Delegation of Powers

All business shall be conducted in the name of the Trust. The business of the Trust is to be managed by the Board of Directors, who shall exercise all the powers of the Trust, subject to any contrary provisions of the 2006 Act given effect by the Constitution.

The Board has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Board in formal session. These powers and decisions are set out in the 'Scheme of Reservation and Delegation of Powers'. Those powers which it has delegated to Directors are also contained in the Scheme of Reservation and Delegation of Powers.

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1. Save as permitted by law, at any meeting, the Chair of the Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of Standing Orders

1.2. Any expression to which a meaning is given in the 2006 Act or in the Regulations or Orders made thereunder or in paragraph 42 of the constitution shall have the same meaning in these Standing Orders and in addition:

"ACCOUNTING OFFICER" means the NHS Officer responsible and accountable for funds entrusted to the Trust. The officer shall be responsible for ensuring the proper stewardship of public funds and assets. For this Trust it shall be the Chief Executive.

"ASSOCIATE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" means a person appointed to support the Board succession strategy without the associated rights or liabilities. Associate Non-Executive Directors cannot participate in any formal vote at Board.

"BUDGET" shall mean a resource, expressed in financial terms, proposed by the Board of Directors for the purpose of carrying out, for a specific period, any or all of the functions of the Trust;

"CHAIR OF THE TRUST BOARD (OR TRUST)" is the person appointed to lead the Board and Council of Governors and to ensure that it successfully discharges its overall responsibility for the Trust as a whole.

"COMMITTEE" shall mean a committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

"COMMITTEE MEMBERS" shall be persons formally appointed by the Board of Directors to sit on or to chair specific committees.

"CONSTITUTION" shall be the Constitution of Bolton NHS Foundation Trust.

"Deputy Chair" means the Non-Executive Director appointed by the Council of Governors to take on the Chair's duties if the Chair is absent for any reason.

"DIRECTOR" shall mean a person appointed as a director in accordance with the Constitution.

Directors for the purpose of SO/SFI and Scheme of Delegation are those board members reporting directly to the Chief Executive.

"DIRECTOR OF FINANCE" shall mean the chief finance officer of the Trust.

"FUNDS HELD ON TRUST" shall mean those funds which the Trust holds at its date of incorporation.

"MOTION" means a formal proposition to be discussed and voted on during the course of a meeting.

"NOMINATED OFFICER" means an officer charged with the responsibility for discharging specific tasks within SOs and SFIs.

"OFFICER" means an employee of the Trust.

“PROVIDER COLLABORATIVE” – A group of providers who have agreed to work together to improve the care pathway for their local population.

“PROVIDER LICENCE” – replaced the Terms of Authorisation and is how the Independent Regulator regulates providers of NHS Services.

"SECRETARY" means a person appointed by the Trust (the Trust Secretary) to act independently of the Trust Board and Council of Governors and monitor the Trust's compliance with the law, Standing Orders, Department of Health guidance, the Constitution and Provider Licence.

"SFIs" means Standing Financial Instructions which regulate the conduct of the Trust's financial matters.

"SOs" means Standing Orders.

The expression “the Chair of the Trust” shall be deemed to include the Deputy Chair of the Trust if the Chair is absent from the meeting or is otherwise unavailable.

2. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 2.1. All business shall be conducted in the name of the Trust.
- 2.2. All funds received in Trust shall be in the name of the Trust as corporate Trustee. In relation to funds held on Trust, powers exercised by the Trust as corporate Trustee shall be exercised separately and distinctly from those powers exercised as a Trust.
- 2.3. The Trust has the functions conferred on it by the 2006 Act and its terms of authorisation.
- 2.4. Directors acting on behalf of the Trust as a corporate Trustee are acting as quasi-Trustees. Accountability for charitable funds held on Trust is to the Charity Commission. Accountability for non-charitable funds held on Trust is only to NHS England.
- 2.5. The Trust has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised or made by the Board of Directors in formal session. These powers and decisions are set out in "Reservation of Powers to the Board" and have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders.

2.6. Composition of the Board of Directors

In accordance with the 2006 Act and the constitution, composition of the Board of Directors of the Trust shall be:

The Chair of the Trust

At least 5 non-executive directors

At least 5 executive directors including:

- *the Chief Executive (the Chief Officer and Accounting Officer)*
- *the Director of Finance (the Chief Finance Officer)*
- *the Medical Director*
- *the Director of Nursing*

The number of Executive Directors must not be greater than the number of Non-Executive Directors

2.7. Appointment of the Chair and Directors

The Chair and non-executive directors are appointed in accordance with paragraph 21 of the constitution

The Chair and Non-Executive Directors are appointed and removed by the Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors.

The Chair and Non-Executive Directors shall be appointed for a term of office of up to three years and may be appointed to serve a further term of up to three years (depending on satisfactory performance) and subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act in respect of removal of a Director.

2.8. Terms of Office of the Chair and Directors

The regulations governing the period of tenure of office of the Chair and directors will be in accordance the Constitution.

The Chair and Non-Executive Directors may, in exceptional circumstances, serve longer than six years subject to rigorous review and NHS England approval. Such appointments beyond six years shall be subject to annual re-appointment and external competition if recommended by the Board and approved by the Council of Governors.

Any re-appointment after the second term of office (irrespective of tenure duration), for the Chair and Non-Executive Directors, shall be subject to a performance evaluation carried out in accordance with procedures approved by the Council of Governors to ensure that those individuals continue to be effective, demonstrate commitment to the role and demonstrate independence.

2.9. Appointment of Deputy Chair

Subject to paragraph 22 of the constitution, the Council of Governors, on recommendation of the Trust Chair, may appoint a non-executive director to be Deputy Chair for such a period, not exceeding the remainder of his/her term as non-executive director of the Trust, as they may specify on appointing him/her.

Any non-executive director so appointed may at any time resign from the office of Deputy Chair by giving notice in writing to the Chair and the Council of Governors may thereupon appoint another Non-Executive Director as Deputy Chair in accordance with this Standing Order.

2.10. Appointment of Senior Independent Director

The Board of Directors shall, following consultation with the Council of Governors, appoint one of the non-executive directors to be the senior independent director and one of the non-executive directors to be the deputy senior independent director.

In accordance with a process to be agreed between the Chair and Council of Governors, the senior independent director will lead in the process for evaluating the performance of the Chair.

The senior independent director shall lead a meeting of the Non-Executive Directors at least annually without the Chair to evaluate the Chair's performance, as part of the process agreed with the Council of Governors for appraising the Chair.

The expression "senior independent director" shall be deemed to include the deputy senior independent director of the Trust if the senior independent director is absent from the meeting or is otherwise unavailable.

2.11. Powers of Deputy Chair

Where the Chair of the Trust has died or has otherwise ceased to hold office or where they have been unable to perform their duties as Chair owing to illness, absence from England and Wales or any other cause, references to the Chair in these Standing Orders shall, so long as there is no Chair able to perform their duties, be taken to include references to the Deputy Chair.

2.12. Joint Directors

Where more than one person is appointed jointly to a post in the Trust which qualifies the holder for executive directorship or in relation to which an executive director is to be appointed, those persons shall become appointed as an executive director jointly and shall count for the purpose of Standing Order 2.6 as one person.

3. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1. Admission of the Public and Press

The public shall be admitted to all formal meetings of the Board, but shall be required to withdraw upon the Board of Directors resolving as follows:

“That representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest”.

3.2. The Board may treat the need to receive or consider recommendations or advice from sources other than Directors, Committees or Sub-Committees of the Board as a special reason why publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

3.3. Nothing in these Standing Orders shall require the Board of Directors to allow members of the public or representatives of the press to record proceedings in any manner.

3.4. Calling Meetings

Ordinary meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on a bi-monthly basis and at such times and places as the Board of Directors may determine.

3.5. *The Chair may call a meeting of the Board of Directors at any time. If the Chair refuses to call a meeting after a requisition for that purpose, signed by at least one-third of the whole number of directors, has been presented, or if, the Chair does not call a meeting within seven days after such requisition has been presented, at the Trust’s Headquarters, one third or more directors may forthwith call a meeting.*

3.6. Notice of Meetings

Before each meeting of the Board of Directors, a notice of the meeting, shall be delivered to every director, at least three clear days before the meeting.

3.7. *In the case of a meeting called by directors in default of the Chair, the notice shall be signed by those directors and no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that specified in the notice.*

3.8. Public notice of the time and place of any meeting of the Board (open to the public) will be posted on the Trust’s website at least three clear days before the meeting or, if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, then at the time it is convened. Such notice, together with a copy of the agenda, will be supplied, on request to the press.

3.9. Setting the Agenda

The Board of Directors may determine that certain matters shall appear on every agenda for a meeting of the Board of Directors and shall be addressed prior to any other business being conducted.

- 3.10. A director desiring a matter to be included on an agenda should make this request in writing to the Chair at least ten clear days before the meeting. Requests made less than ten days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

3.11. Chair of Meeting

At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chair, if present, shall preside. If the Chair is absent from the meeting the Deputy Chair, if there is one and they are present, shall preside. If the Chair and Deputy Chair are absent such non-executive director as the directors present shall choose shall preside.

- 3.12. If the Chair is absent from a meeting temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest the Deputy Chair, if present, shall preside. If the Chair and Deputy Chair are absent, or are disqualified from participating, such non-executive director as the directors present shall choose shall preside.

3.13. Annual Public Meeting

The Trust will publicise and hold an annual public meeting in accordance with the Constitution and the Act.

3.14. Notices of Motion

A director of the Trust desiring to move or amend a motion shall send a written notice thereof at least ten clear days before the meeting to the Chair, who shall insert in the agenda for the meeting all notices so received subject to the notice being permissible under the appropriate regulations. This paragraph shall not prevent any motion being moved during the meeting, without notice on any business mentioned on the agenda subject to SO 3.8.

3.15. Withdrawal of Motion or Amendments

A motion or amendment once moved and seconded may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Chair.

3.16. Motion to Rescind a Resolution

Notice of motion to amend or rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six calendar months shall bear the signature of the director who gives it and also the signatures of four other directors. When any such motion has been disposed of by the Board of Directors, it shall not be competent

for any director other than the Chair to propose a motion to the same effect within six months. However, the Chair may do so if considered appropriate.

3.17. **Motions**

The mover of a motion shall have a right of reply at the close of any discussion on the motion or any amendment thereto.

3.18. When a motion is under discussion or immediately prior to discussion it shall be open to a director to move:

- An amendment to the motion.
- The adjournment of the discussion or the meeting.
- That the meeting proceed to the next business. (*)
- The appointment of an ad hoc committee to deal with a specific item of business.
- That the motion be now put. (*)

* In the case of sub-paragraphs denoted by (*) above to ensure objectivity motions may only be put by a director who has not previously taken part in the debate. No amendment to the motion shall be admitted if, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, the amendment negates the substance of the motion.

3.19. **Chair's Ruling**

The decision of the Chair of the meeting on questions of order, relevancy and regularity (including procedure on handling motions) and their interpretation of the Standing Orders, shall be final.

3.20. **Voting**

Every question at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the directors present and voting on the question and, in the case of any equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a second or casting vote.

3.21. All questions put to the vote shall, at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting, be determined by oral expression or by a show of hands. A paper ballot may also be used if a majority of the directors present so request.

3.22. If at least one-third of the directors present so request, the voting (other than by paper ballot) on any question may be recorded to show how each director present voted or abstained.

3.23. If a director so requests, their vote shall be recorded by name upon any vote (other than by paper ballot).

3.24. In no circumstances may an absent director vote by proxy. Absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote.

3.25. An officer who has been appointed formally by the Board of Directors to act up for an executive director will have the voting rights of that executive director. An officer attending the Board of Directors to represent an executive director without formal acting up status may not exercise the voting rights of the executive director.

3.26. **Non – Voting Directors**

Non-Voting Directors are ones who Board members have determined should attend the Board in order to provide it with particular expertise on a continuing basis. They may be expected to attend some or all Board meeting whether held in public or private.

They will receive all board papers for agenda items against which their contributions are required. They will have the opportunity to participate in all board discussions but may not take part in any voting and may be excluded from any part of a Board meeting at the request of the Chair.

All matters discussed or witnessed by attendees shall be regarded as confidential to the board save for those where actions are agreed otherwise.

In order that they do not become liable for decisions made, the Chair will make clear that they are being invited to comment upon items for debate but not take part in any vote should one occur

3.27. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting shall be drawn up and submitted for agreement at the next meeting.

No discussion shall take place upon the minutes except upon their accuracy or where the Chair considers discussion appropriate. Any amendment to the minutes shall be agreed and recorded.

Minutes shall be circulated in accordance with directors' wishes. Where providing a record of a public meeting the minutes shall be made available to the public.

3.28. **Joint Directors**

Where a post of executive director is shared by more than one person:

- a) both persons shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Trust;
- b) either of those persons shall be eligible to vote in the case of agreement between them;
- c) in the case of disagreement between them no vote should be cast;
- d) the presence of either or both of those persons shall count as one person for the purposes of SO 3.36 (Quorum).

3.29. **Suspension of Standing Orders**

Except where this would contravene any statutory provision, any one or more of the Standing Orders may be suspended at any meeting, provided that at least half (normally six) of the

Board of Directors are present, including one executive director and one non-executive director, and that a majority of those present vote in favour of suspension.

- 3.30. A decision to suspend SOs shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 3.31. A separate record of matters discussed during the suspension of SOs shall be made and shall be available to the directors.
- 3.32. No formal business may be transacted while SOs are suspended.
- 3.33. The Audit and Risk Committee shall review every decision to suspend SOs
- 3.34. **Variation and Amendment of Standing Orders –**

These Standing Orders shall not be revoked, varied or amended except upon:

- a) A report to the Board by the Chief Executive or the Director of Corporate Governance acting on their behalf.
- b) A notice of motion under Standing Order 3.15, such revocation, variation or amendment having to be approved by a number of Directors equal to at least two-thirds (normally eight including the Chair) of the whole number of Directors of the Board, and provided that any revocation, variation or amendment does not contravene a statutory provision or direction made by the Secretary of State.

3.35. **Record of Attendance**

The names of the directors present at the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.

3.36. **Quorum**

No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Board of Directors unless at least one-third of the whole number of the directors are present including at least one executive director and one non-executive director.

- 3.37. An officer in attendance for an executive director but without formal acting up status may not count towards the quorum.
- 3.38. If a director has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution by reason of the declaration of a conflict of interest (see SO 6 or 7) they will no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be discussed further or voted upon at that meeting. Such a position shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then be proceeded to the next business.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS BY DELEGATION

- 4.1. The Board of Directors may make arrangements for the exercise of any of its functions by a committee or sub-committee, appointed by virtue of SO 5.1 or 5.2 below or by an executive director of the Trust in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Board of Directors thinks fit.

4.2. Emergency Powers

The powers which the Board of Directors has retained for itself within these Standing Orders (SO 2.5) may in emergency be exercised by the Chief Executive and the Chair after having consulted at least two non-executive directors. The exercise of such powers by the Chief Executive and the Chair shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board of Directors for ratification.

4.3. Delegation to Committees

The Board of Directors shall agree from time to time to the delegation of executive powers to be exercised by committees or sub-committees, which it has formally constituted. The constitution and terms of reference of these committees, or sub-committees, and their specific executive powers shall be approved by the Board of Directors

4.4. Delegation to Officers

Those functions of the Trust which have not been retained as reserved by the Board of Directors or delegated to an executive committee or subcommittee shall be exercised on behalf of the Board of Directors by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive shall determine which functions to perform personally and shall nominate officers to undertake the remaining functions for which the CEO will still retain accountability to the Board of Directors.

- 4.5. The Chief Executive shall prepare a Scheme of Delegation, which shall be considered and approved by the Board of Directors, subject to any amendment agreed during the discussion. The Chief Executive may periodically propose amendment to the Scheme of Delegation, which shall be considered and approved by the Board of Directors as indicated above.
- 4.6. Nothing in the Scheme of Delegation shall impair the discharge of direct accountability to the Board of Directors of the Director of Finance and Commissioning or other executive directors to provide information and advise the Board of Directors in accordance with any statutory requirements.

5. COMMITTEES

5.1. Appointment of Committees

The Board of Directors may appoint committees of the Board of Directors, consisting wholly or partly of directors of the Trust.

5.2. A committee appointed under SO 5.1 may, subject to such directions as may be given by the Board of Directors appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the committee.

5.3. The Standing Orders of the Trust, as far as they are applicable, shall apply with appropriate alteration to meetings of any committee or sub-committee established by the Board of Directors.

5.4. Each such committee or sub-committee shall have such terms of reference and powers and be subject to such conditions (as to reporting back to the Board of Directors), as the Board of Directors shall decide. Such terms of reference shall have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders.

5.5. Committees may not delegate their executive powers to a sub-committee unless expressly authorised by the Board of Directors.

5.6. The Board of Directors shall approve the appointments to each of the committees which it has formally constituted.

5.7. Not used

5.8. The committees formally established by the Board of Directors are:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Quality Assurance Committee
- Finance and Investment Committee
- People Committee
- Remuneration and Nomination Committee
- Charitable Funds Committee

5.9. Confidentiality

A member of a committee shall not disclose a matter dealt with by, or brought before, the committee without its permission until the committee shall have reported to the Board of Directors or shall otherwise have concluded on that matter.

5.10. A Director of the Trust or a member of a committee shall not disclose any matter reported to the Board of Directors or otherwise dealt with by the committee, notwithstanding that the matter has been reported or action has been concluded, if the Board of Directors or committee shall resolve that it is confidential.

6. DECLARATIONS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Pursuant to paragraph 28 of the constitution, a register of Director's and Governor's interests must be kept by the Trust

6.1. Declaration of Interests

The Constitution requires Board Directors (including for the purposes of this document Non-executive Directors) and Governors to declare interests which are relevant and material. All existing board directors should declare relevant and material interests. Any board directors or governors appointed subsequently should do so on appointment or election.

6.2. All employees of the Trust who have a direct financial interest in a private company of any description which may be engaged in the provision of goods or services to the NHS, must declare that interest in accordance with the "Managing Conflicts of Interest Policy" at the time of appointment or commencement of any such interest.

6.3. Interests which should be regarded as "relevant and material" and which, for the avoidance of doubt, should include in the register are:

- a) Directorships, including non-executive directorships held in private companies or PLCs (with the exception of those of dormant companies).
- b) Ownership or part-ownership of private companies, businesses or consultancies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
- c) Majority or controlling share holdings in organisations likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
- d) A position of authority in a charity or voluntary organisation in the field of health and social care.
- e) Any connection with a voluntary or other organisation contracting for NHS services.
- f) Any connection with an organisation, entity or company considering entering into or having entered into a financial arrangement with the NHS Foundation Trust, including but not limited to, lenders or banks

6.4. If board directors or governors have any doubt about the relevance of an interest, this should be discussed with the Director of Corporate Governance.

6.5. Any changes in interests should be declared at the next Board of Directors' meeting following the change. It is the obligation of the director or governor to inform the Director of Corporate Governance in writing within seven days of becoming aware of the existence of a relevant or material interest.

6.6. The names of directors holding directorships of companies in 6.3(a) above or in companies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS (6.3(b) above) should be published in the board's annual report. The information should be kept up to date for inclusion in succeeding annual reports.

6.7. During the course of a Board of Directors meeting or a governor meeting, if a conflict of interest is established, the director or governor concerned should withdraw from the meeting

and play no part in the relevant discussion or decision. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes voting on such an issue where a conflict is established. If there is a dispute as to whether a conflict of interest does exist, the majority will resolve the issue with the Chair having the casting vote.

6.8. Register of Interests

The details of directors' and governors' interests recorded in the Register of Interests, that is publically available on the Trust website and will be reviewed on a bi-annually for compliance, by the Audit and Risk Committee.

6.9. In accordance with paragraph 30 of the constitution, the Register will be available for inspection. The Chair will take reasonable steps to bring the existence of the Register to the attention of the local population and to publicise arrangements for viewing it. Copies or extracts of the Register must be provided to members of the Trust free of charge and within a reasonable time period of the request. A reasonable charge may be imposed on non-members for copies or extracts of the Register

7. DISABILITY OF DIRECTORS IN PROCEEDINGS ON ACCOUNT OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

7.1. *Subject to the following provisions of this Standing Order, if a director of the Trust has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter and is present at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which the contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, they will at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or vote on any question with respect to it.*

7.2. *Not used*

7.3. *The Trust shall exclude a director from a meeting of the Board of Directors while any contract, proposed contract or other matter in which they have a pecuniary interest, is under consideration*

7.4. *Any remuneration, compensation or allowances payable to a director by virtue of their position as a director of the Trust shall not be treated as a pecuniary interest for the purpose of this Standing Order.*

7.5. *For the purpose of this Standing Order the Chair or a director shall be treated, subject to SO 7.2 and SO 7.6, as having indirectly a pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter, if*

- a) *they or a close associate* of theirs, is a director of a company or other body, not being a public body, with which the contract was made or is proposed to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration; or*

b) they or a close associate of theirs is a business partner of, or is in the employment of a person with whom the contract was made or is proposed to be made or who has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration;*

7.6. A director shall not be treated as having a pecuniary interest in any contract, proposed contract or other matter by reason only:

- a) of membership of a company or other body, with no beneficial interest in any securities of that company or other body;*
- b) of an interest in any company, body or person as mentioned in SO 7.5 above which is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence a director in the consideration or discussion of or in voting on, any question with respect to that contract or matter.*

7.7. Where a director:

- a) has an indirect pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter by reason only of a beneficial interest in securities of a company or other body, and*
- b) the total nominal value of those securities does not exceed £5,000 or one hundredth of the total nominal value of the issued share capital of the company or body, whichever is the less, and*
- c) if the share capital is of more than one class and the total nominal value of shares of any one class does not exceed one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class, this Standing Order shall not prohibit them from taking part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or from voting on any question with respect to it without prejudice however to the duty to disclose an interest.*

7.8. Standing Order 7 applies to a committee or sub-committee of the Board of Directors as it applies to the Board of Directors and applies to any member of any such committee or sub-committee as it applies to a director of the Trust.

7.9. For the purposes of these Standing Orders a "Close Associate" is taken to cover the following:

- Married persons and those in Civil partnerships or cohabiting. In which case, the interest of one shall, if known to the other, be deemed for the purposes of this Standing Order to be also an interest of the other.*
- Interests of parents, siblings or children*
- Interests of current and former business partners*

8. STANDARDS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT

8.1. Policy

The Trust has adopted a Standards of Business Policy and staff must comply with this guidance and guidance in the Bribery Act 2010. The following provisions should be read in conjunction with these documents

8.2. Interest of Officers in Contracts

If it comes to the knowledge of a director or an officer of the Trust that a contract in which they have any pecuniary interest not being a contract to which they are a party, has been, or is proposed to be, entered into by the Trust they shall, at once, give notice in writing to the Chief Executive of the fact. In the case of married persons [or persons] living together as partners, the interest of one partner shall, if known to the other, be deemed to be also the interest of that partner

8.3. An officer must also declare any other employment or business or other relationship of theirs or a close associate as previously defined, that conflicts, or might reasonably be predicted could conflict with the interests of the Trust. The Trust shall require interests, employment or relationships so declared by staff to be entered in a register of interests of staff

8.4. Canvassing of and Recommendations by, Directors in Relation to Appointments

Canvassing of directors of the Trust or members of any committee of the Trust directly or indirectly for any appointment under the Trust shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. The contents of this paragraph of the Standing Order shall be included in application forms or otherwise brought to the attention of candidates

8.5. A director of the Trust shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Trust or recommend any person for such appointment: but this paragraph of this Standing Order shall not preclude a director from giving written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Trust.

8.6. Informal discussions outside appointments panels or committees, whether solicited or unsolicited, should be declared to the panel or committee.

8.7. Relatives of Directors or Officers

Candidates for any staff appointment shall when making application disclose in writing whether they are related to any director or the holder of any office under the Trust. Failure to disclose such a relationship shall disqualify a candidate and, if appointed, render them liable to instant dismissal.

8.8. The directors and every officer of the Trust shall disclose to the Chief Executive any relationship with a candidate of whose candidature that director or officer is aware. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to report to the Board of Directors any such disclosure made.

- 8.9. Prior to acceptance of an appointment directors should disclose to the Trust whether they are related to any other director or holder of any office within the Trust
- 8.10. Where the relationship of an officer or another director to a director of the Trust is disclosed, the Standing Order headed 'Disability of directors in proceedings on account of pecuniary interest' (SO 7) shall apply
- 8.11. Any Board member or member of staff who receives or is offered hospitality in excess of £50.00 must decline that hospitality and is required to enter the details of the hospitality in the Trust's Hospitality Register
- 8.12. The Board recognises the offences set out in the Bribery Act:
- to give, promise or offer a bribe,
 - to request, agree to receive or accept a bribe either in the UK or overseas
 - A corporate offence of failure to prevent bribery by persons working on behalf of a commercial organisation.

9. CUSTODY OF SEAL AND SEALING OF DOCUMENT

9.1. Custody of Seal

The Common Seal of the Trust shall be kept by the Director of Corporate Governance in a secure place in accordance with arrangements approved by the Board.

9.2. Sealing of Documents

The Seal of the Trust shall not be fixed to any documents unless the sealing has been authorised by the Board of Directors, a Board Committee or where the Board of Directors has delegated its power

9.3. On approval by the Board, or by the Chair or the Chief Executive under delegated powers, to a transaction in pursuance of which the Common Seal of the Board is required to be affixed to appropriate documents, shall be deemed also to convey authority for the use of the Common Seal

9.4. Where approval to the sealing of a document has been given specifically in pursuance of a resolution of the Board or in accordance with Standing Order No.9.3 above, the Seal shall be affixed in the presence of the Chair, or other Officer duly authorised and an Executive Director of the Trust, and shall be attested by them

9.5. Register of Sealing

9.6. An entry of every sealing shall be made and numbered consecutively in a book provided for that purpose and shall be signed by the persons who shall have approved and authorised the document and those who attested the seal. A report on all sealing shall be made to the

Audit and Risk Committee at least annually. (The report shall contain details of the seal number, the description of the document and date of sealing)

10. SIGNATURE AND INSPECTION OF DOCUMENT

- 10.1. Where the signature of any document will be a necessary step in legal proceedings involving the Trust, it shall be signed by the Chief Executive, unless any enactment otherwise requires or authorises, or the Board of Directors shall have given the necessary authority to some other person for the purpose of such proceedings.
- 10.2. The Chief Executive or nominated officers shall be authorised, by resolution of the Board of Directors, to sign on behalf of the Trust any agreement or other document (not required to be executed as a deed) the subject matter of which has been approved by the Board of Directors or committee or sub-committee to which the Board of Directors has delegated appropriate authority
- 10.3. A Director of the Board may for purposes of their duty as a Director, but not otherwise, inspect any document which has been considered by the Chair or Chief Executive or senior officers under the terms of their delegated powers, or by the Board, provided that the Director shall not knowingly inspect or request a document relating to a matter in which they are professionally interested or in which they have directly or indirectly any pecuniary interest.
- 10.4. This Standing Order shall not preclude the Chief Executive from declining to allow inspection of any document which is, or in the event of legal proceedings would be, protected by privilege.
- 10.5. Nothing in the above paragraphs of this Standing Order 10 shall be interpreted as giving the right to Directors to have access to confidential patient records

11. MISCELLANEOUS

- 11.1. **Standing Orders to be given to Directors and Officers** - It is the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that existing directors and officers and all new appointees are notified of and understand their responsibilities within the Standing Orders and SFIs.
- 11.2. **Review of Standing Orders** - Standing Orders shall be reviewed bi-annually by the Board of Directors. The requirement for review extends to all documents having the effect as if incorporated in SOs.