

Board of Directors' Statement of commitment to the principles of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections 2023/24

The successful management, prevention and control of infection is recognised by the Trust as a key factor in the quality and safety of the care of our patients and of those in the local health community, and in the safety and wellbeing of our staff and visitors.

The Board is aware of its duties under The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (2011). The Board has collective responsibility for infection prevention and control including minimising the risks of infection.

The Board receives assurance that the Trust has mechanisms in place for minimising the risks of infection by means of the Infection Prevention and Control Group and the Director of Infection Prevention and Control (DIPC). Assurance is provided by performance reports, audit reports, post infection review reports and verbal presentations from the DIPC.

The Infection Prevention and Control Group is chaired by the DIPC. It is a sub-group of the Trust Management Board (TMB). It has terms of reference and produces an annual plan. The Board of Directors receives regular updates via the Trust's Integrated Performance Reporting framework, and an annual Infection Prevention and Control report. The IPC Group reports to the TMB and provides assurance to the Quality Committee.

The DIPC is appointed by the Board and reports directly to the Chief Executive and the Board. The post holder is a member of the Trust Management Board and Quality Committee. The DIPC role is incorporated in the Chief Nursing Officer portfolio and the post holder is assisted in discharging the relevant responsibilities by the Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control, Head of Infection Prevention and Control, Infection Prevention and Control Doctor and the Infection Control Team.

The Board is committed to the exemplary application of infection control practice within all areas of the Trust. To this end the Board will ensure that all staff are provided with access to infection control advice with a fully resourced infection control and occupational health service, access to personal protective equipment and training and policies that provide up-to-date infection control knowledge and care practices. Individual and corporate responsibility for infection control will be stipulated as appropriate in all job descriptions with individual compliance monitored annually through the appraisal systems and personal development plans.

The policies in place in the Trust and the arrangements set out above are to encourage, support and foster a culture of trust wide responsibility for the prevention and control of infection in practice, with the aim of continually improving the quality and safety of patient care. This extends to all relevant departments; clinical directorates, clinical support services, estates and ancillary services.

The Trust's policies and practices in respect of infection prevention and control accord with the aims and objectives in national policy and strategy and, in addition, the Trust participates fully in all national mandatory reporting requirements. This is aimed at ensuring the full confidence of the local population in the quality of care the Trust delivers.

July 2023