

## Board Challenge and development

### Unlocking your Board potential

A key requirement of today's NHS is a mature and integrated Board with a robust approach to corporate business assessment, development and governance.

Today's NHS organisations operate in an increasingly challenging and changing political, social, and economic climate. They face a complex range of issues such as market plurality and competitiveness, increasing statutory and regulatory compliance, Foundation Trust preparedness and commissioning system restructuring.

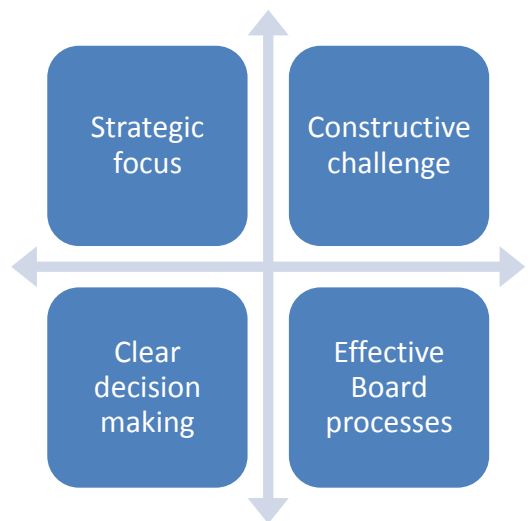
Corporate understanding of these issues, and increasing organisational self-determination and autonomy, calls for robust arrangements at Board level and a steep learning curve for which external specialist advice or support can be highly beneficial.

**Bevan Brittan LLP and Chantrey Vellacott DFK's Healthcare Solutions Team have worked extensively in the NHS and are established as leading providers of professional services to the health sector.**

We work with aspirant and authorised Foundation Trusts, PCTs, Provider Organisations, Mental Health and Social Care Trusts, Ambulance Trusts, Social Enterprise Organisations, and Strategic Health Authorities.

### Benefits to you

A key benefit of the Board Challenge process is our approach to the development of your Board. We work with you to develop and implement a detailed action plan split across the four key areas of Board performance:



With legal experts and former senior NHS managers and other specialists in strategic planning, risk and financial & business management, we are able to provide you with an expert and independent assessment of Board level competence, tailored specifically to address the integrated governance and business development issues facing your organisation.

Our approach is geared towards your success. We aim to ensure that you and your team are confident and well informed at every level and that you receive support that adds true value to your Board effectiveness.

## Board assessment and development process checklist

Our assessment process is based on the NHS Codes for Board Accountability and Board Conduct, and the principles of The Intelligent Board. We have developed a number of techniques including a mock Board-to-Board assessment, structured interviews, observation and evaluations to address six key questions:

- Does your Board have the spread of skills and competencies necessary to drive your organisation forward, and operate within a strong financial, commercial and legal governance framework?
- Is your Board receiving the right information, at the right time, allowing it to rigorously scrutinise financial, clinical and other operational performance and risks and drive improvement to the quality of its services?
- Is there sufficient challenge from Non-Executive Directors and, equally, are Executive Directors challenging each other?
- Do your Board discussions conclude with clear outcomes, decisions and identified actions; and are these actions rigorously followed up?
- Does your Board conduct effective, well-run public meetings, at which, as well as operational performance, matters of a strategic nature are discussed and debated?
- Is your Board aware of the risks to its business, and does it have adequate assurance that these risks are being effectively managed?

## The Challenge facing your Board

The prime duty of an NHS Board is to “add value to the organisation, enabling it to deliver healthcare and health improvement within the law and without causing harm”. It does this by providing a framework within which your Trust can thrive and grow, and has collective responsibility for:

- Adding value to, and promoting the success of, the organisation
- Providing leadership to the organisation within a framework of prudent and effective controls
- Setting strategic direction, ensuring management capacity and capability, and monitoring and managing performance
- Safeguarding values and ensuring the organisation’s obligations to its key stakeholders are met

## Contact



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