

Standing Orders Update and Approval

Public Board
29 January 2026

Presented for:	Approval
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Previous Committees:	N/A

Link to Strategic Objective	N/A
Link to Provider Capability Assessment	Governance, risk and regulatory
Link to CQC Well-led Statement	Governance, Management and Sustainability
Regulatory Impact	Regulation 17: Good governance

Key points	Purpose
The Board is asked to approve amendments to the Standing Orders to reflect changes to the Board Committee governance structure and minor updates to terminology.	Approval

Risk Appetite Framework			
Level 1 Risk	Level 2 Risks	(Risk Appetite Scale)	Impact
External Risk	Legal & Governance Risk - We will operate the Trust in compliance with the Law and UK Corporate Governance Code, where applicable.	Averse	Moving Towards

1. Background

The Trusts Standing Orders, together with Standing Financial Instructions and Scheme of Delegation, 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.

2. Update

Following the review and reset of the Board Committee structure which concluded in November 2025 the content of the Standing Orders has been reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with the revised governance structure.

Updates have included the removal of out-of-date terminology and bodies (ie. NHS Improvement), correction of hyper-links to latest legislation and minor amendments to formatting to support accessibility.

The Committee Terms of Reference were approved by the Board in November and updated versions have been included within the Standing Order Appendices.

There have been no significant changes to the actual duties and responsibilities defined within the framework and the Standing Orders continue to be applicable for all staff.

In addition, the forward plans for each of the Board Committees have been reset to ensure alignment with their delegated duties; these have been provided as additional appendices for information; assurance on these areas will be presented periodically to the Board primarily through the Committee Chairs Summary Reports or as otherwise indicated on the Board Forward Plan.

3. Publication Under Freedom of Information Act

This paper has been made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4. Recommendation

The Board is requested to approve the revisions to the Standing Orders (and note that following approval the updated document will be uploaded on the Trusts Policy Hub) and reconfirm delegation from the Board to the contents of the work plans for the assurance Committees of the Board.

5. Supporting Information

The following papers make up this report:

- Appendix 1 - Standing Orders (for approval)
- Appendix 2 - Committee Forward Plans (Audit, Finance & Performance, People & Culture, Perinatal Improvement and Quality Assurance Committees)