

Governance Conference 2019

Govern Well

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Governing well: Gaining assurance

Deborah Walthorne

chcymru.org.uk 

twitter.com/CHCymru 

enquiries@chcymru.org.uk 

02920 674800 

THIS MORNING'S OBJECTIVES



The focus of this bite-size will be on gaining confidence that:

- The right level of assurance and accountability is in place
- The organisation is transparent
- The organisation is well-managed and sustainable

UNDERSTANDING GOVERNANCE

Governance: the system by which organisations are directed and controlled.

Boards members are responsible for the governance of their organisation and must understand the full scope of their responsibilities. They should:



- have sufficient time and resources to meet their responsibilities;
- provide constructive challenge, strategic guidance, offer specialist advice and hold management to account;
- ensure that (with support from the company secretary) they have the right policies, processes, information, to function effectively and efficiently.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS...A FLAVOUR



**Compliance - is it for us?
Or to meet the demands of others?**

Governance arrangements should establish and maintain clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for the board, chair and chief executive.

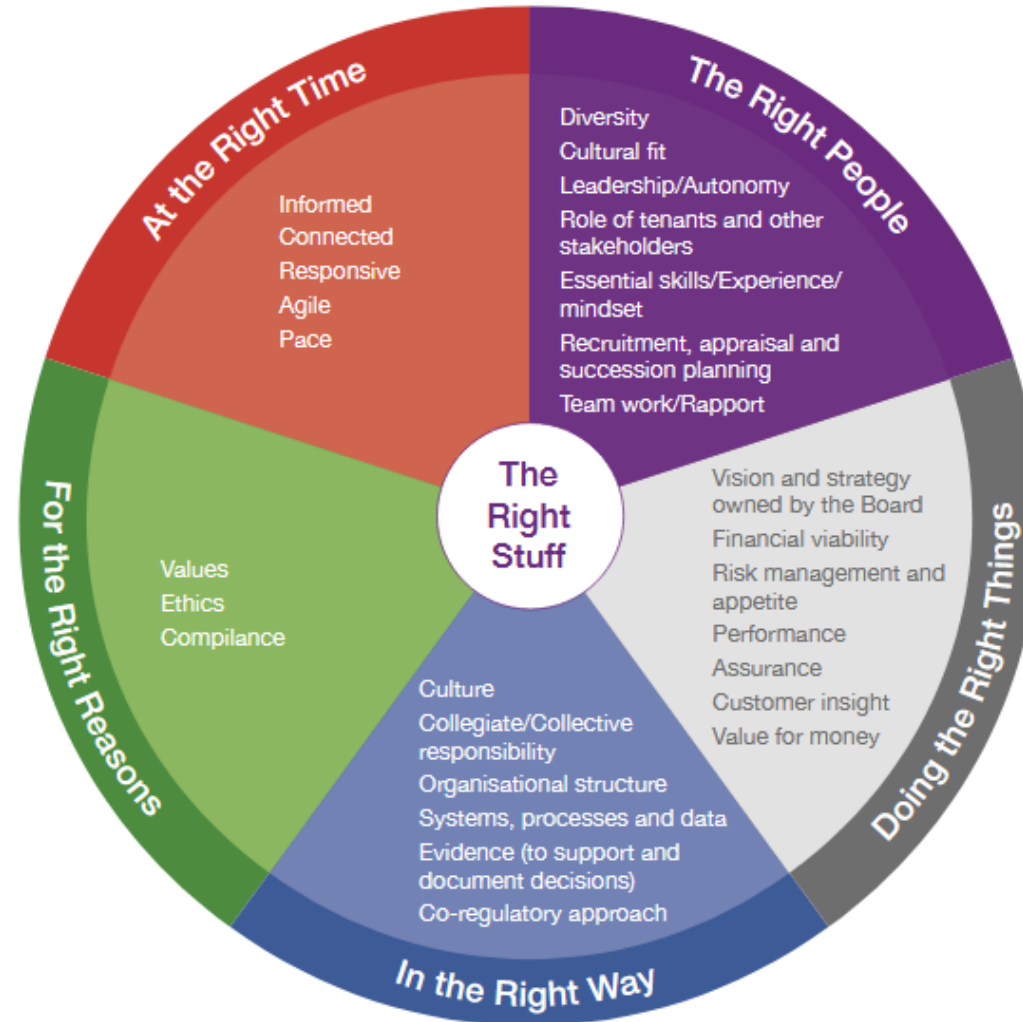
- Ensure appropriate probity arrangements are in place
- Comply with governing documents including adopting, and complying with, an appropriate code of governance
- Adhere to all relevant law
- Have effective systems and controls to monitor and accurately report delivery of [your] plans
- Demonstrate how the board assures itself of current performance, including tenant satisfaction, and drives continuous improvement
- Monitor, report on and comply with all covenants

REFLECTIONS



- How satisfied are you that your organisation has adequate assurance arrangements in place to help you govern well?
- Do you feel you have clear lines of sight to diverse business streams?
- Do you consciously agree what **not** to do as well as what to do?
- Are there clear procedures and triggers in place to elevate risks to the board quickly?
- Where are your opportunities for improvement?

Vision of Good Governance



SOME USEFUL DOCUMENTS



- Regulatory Framework for Housing Associations Registered in Wales
- Housing Association Circular RSL 005/10
- Housing Association Circular RSL 02/15
- The Right Stuff: Improving Housing Association Governance in Wales
- WG Sector Risks and Regulatory Expectations
- CHC Code of Governance
- FRC Guidance on Board Effectiveness
- ICSA Guidance note: Matters reserved for the board of trustees
- WG Lessons learnt report: CCHA

Thank You
Diolch

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