

## Thinking of becoming a governor? Frequently Asked Questions

### Why become a governor?

- Have your say about local services and future provision
- Influence who is on the Trust's Board of Directors
- Meet some great people and truly make a difference
- Act as an ambassador for our Trust.

### Who can become a governor?

Anyone who is a member of the Trust and aged 16 years or over can stand for election as a governor. Our governors must also be part of the designated constituency area.

### Do I need any qualifications or experience to become a governor?

You do not need to have any formal qualifications or previous experience to be governor, all you need is to have a passion for improving services within the NHS. We will provide all of the help, training and support that you need to carry out the role.

### How can I become a governor?

To become a governor, you must first be a member of the Trust. At each election, eligible members will be contacted about the election process.

### Will I be paid to be a governor?

Governors are not paid, but we are happy to repay any expenses incurred carrying out the governor role.

### How much time is required to fulfill my role as a governor?

Governors are required to:

- Make themselves available to undertake any training that the Trust decides is necessary
- Be available to attend all four of our formal Council of Governors meetings
- Be available to attend our Annual Members Meeting (half a day)
- Attend our full day board to board workshop (annual)
- Spend time preparing for any meetings that they attend
- Be available to observe at our board sub-committee meetings to observe the work of the committee (optional)
- Spend time engaging with members.



### How long are governors in office for?

Governors are elected or appointed for a term of office of three years. When that term of office has finished they can stand for re-election or re-appointment but only for a maximum of six years in total.

If a governor steps down before the end of the three year term it counts as the full three years in office.

Terms of office do not need to be served consecutively, there can be a break between them.

### What is the difference between a governor and a director?

**Governors** are volunteers who represent local communities, staff groups, and partner organisations. They are elected by the membership or appointed by our partner organisations.

**Directors** set the strategy for our Trust and are responsible for ensuring services are of a high quality. The Board of Directors is made up of eight executive directors (including the Chief Executive), two of whom are non-voting; and seven non-executive directors (including the Chair). The non-executives are appointed by the Council of Governors and provide independent challenge to the executive directors.

### What is the role of Lead Governor?

The Lead Governor has a role to play in facilitating direct communication between Monitor (NHS Improvement) and the Trust's Council of Governors. There will be limited circumstances when this is required where the normal channels of communication via the Chair or the Trust Board Secretary are not suitable.

### What is the role of the Senior Independent Director?

The role of Senior Independent Director (SID) is to be available to governors and members if they have concerns about the performance of the Board of Directors, compliance with the terms of authorisation or welfare of the Trust. The SID would be contacted when normal channels of communication via the Chair, Chief Executive, Finance Director, or Trust Board Secretary are not suitable.

The SID will be involved with appraising the performance of the Chair.

