



Becoming a governor

What does a governor do?

Becoming a governor of the Trust is your opportunity to help your local hospital bring real change by improving healthcare in your community. Governors represent the interest and views of our patients, staff and local residents.

In addition to statutory responsibilities, such as Board appointments, the Council of Governors has a key role in helping determine our future and how to deliver the best possible care for our patients.

Our governors fulfil a huge variety of roles in supporting the hospital from helping plan public events to influencing the development of services we provide to patients.

Individual governors act as ambassadors for the Trust in explaining the hospital's work and achievements to the public in various ways.

The Council of Governors is responsible for engaging its members and encouraging participation in the Trust's activities—including the Annual Members' Meeting, the hospital Open Day, Medicine for Members events and focus groups.

What skills and abilities are required?

Being a governor means you can develop your skills in a number of different areas. You do not need any specific qualifications or experience to become a governor—you just need enthusiasm and the wish to be involved in improving health services.

The role of a governor has been described as a 'critical friend' and it is beneficial for governors to have strong communication skills and the confidence to ask questions.

What commitment is required?

Governors need to:

- adopt and promote the Trust values—respectful, kind, excellent and safe
- attend formal meetings of the Council of Governors which are held quarterly with the Board of Directors in attendance—these last approximately 2 hours
- develop relationships with other governors, the Chairman, Executive Directors and Non-Executive Directors
- undertake any required induction and development programmes

Governors may also:

- work with staff and patients to improve services
- be invited to join decision-making committees that will influence the future direction of our health services
- participate in Council of Governors sub-committee meetings and act as an independent advocate for patients and the public through 'Meet a governor' sessions

Written by governors for governors