

# Becoming a foundation trust governor

## Frequently asked questions

This document contains frequently asked questions by our members who have expressed an interest in becoming governors. We would encourage you to visit our website, [www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk) for further information about our Trust, vision, values and objectives



For information about becoming governor please contact  
The Membership team, Call 01438 781846, Email [ftmembership.enhtr@nhs.net](mailto:ftmembership.enhtr@nhs.net)  
The Company Secretary, Jude Archer, [jude.archer@nhs.net](mailto:jude.archer@nhs.net)

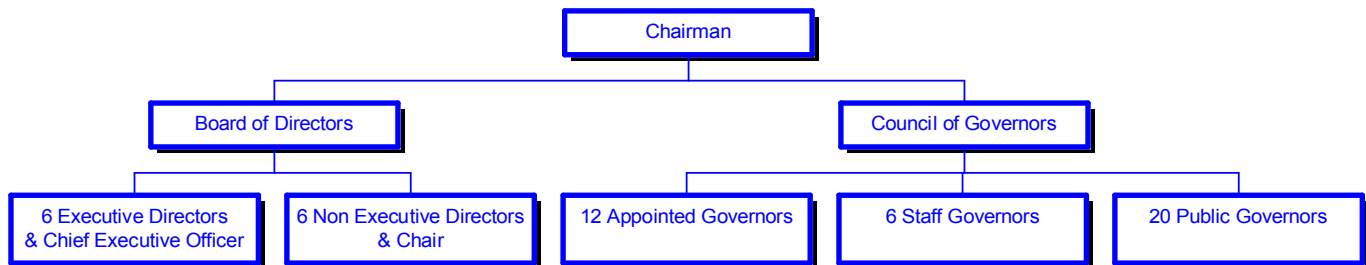
## 1 How many governors will there be?

The Council of Governors will be made up of:

- 20 public governors elected by public members
- 6 staff governors elected by Trust staff
- 12 appointed governors nominated by partner organisations

## 2 What will be the roles and responsibilities of governors?

Our governors will engage with, and help develop our membership, ensuring that their voice and views are heard by the Trust Board. They will inform and provide their views on the Trust's plans and services, and hold the Board of Directors to account in relation to the Trust's performance in accordance with the terms of the Foundation Trust Authorisation. The relationship between the Council of Governors and Board of Directors is illustrated below:



## 3 What will be the statutory duties of governors?

Our governors will have certain statutory duties that they will be expected to perform as part of their role. The statutory responsibilities of our Council of Governors will be:

- To appoint, or if necessary remove, the Chairman and Non- Executive Directors
- To decide the remuneration (salary) and allowances, and other terms and conditions, of the Non- Executive Directors
- To appoint or if necessary, remove the Auditor
- To be presented with the Annual Accounts and the Annual Report

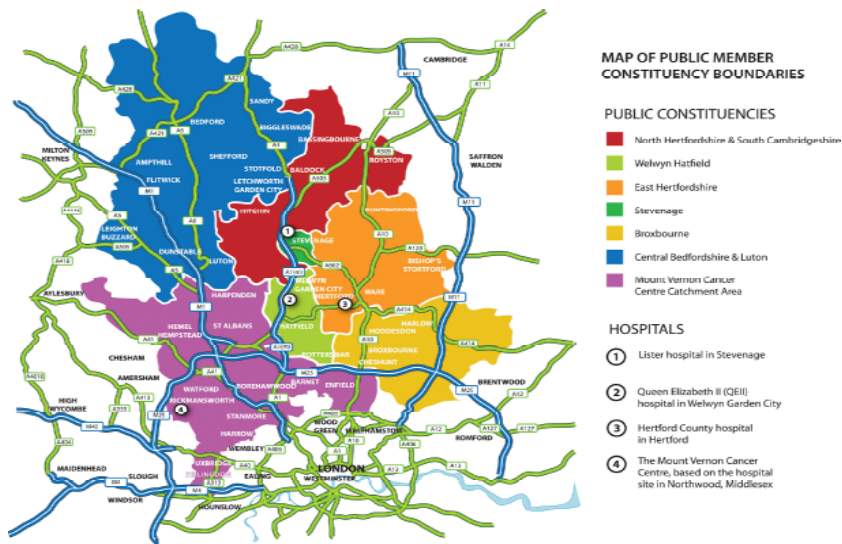
In addition to these, we wish to involve our governors informing and influencing the priorities and work of the Trust more generally.

## 4 How many public governors will there be?

In recognition of the wide geographical area covered by the Trust and its four hospitals, we have divided the public constituency geographically. Therefore, our public governors will be elected by our public members within their constituency, and will reflect their views. There will be:

- 1 governor from the Broxbourne constituency:
- 2 governors from the Central Bedfordshire and Luton constituency:
- 2 governors from the East Hertfordshire constituency:
- 4 governors from the North Hertfordshire and South Cambridgeshire constituency:
- 4 governors from the Stevenage constituency:
- 4 governors from the Welwyn Hatfield constituency:
- 3 governors from the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre constituency

## Map of public member constituencies and our hospitals



### 5 How many staff governors will there be?

We will have different staff classes (categories) from across the Trust to ensure that our staff governors are representative of our staff as a whole. Our staff governors will be elected by our staff members. There will be:

- 2 governors from the Consultants and Doctors Class:
- 2 governors from the Nurses and Midwives Class:
- 1 governor from the Other Clinical Staff Class (eg. pharmacists, laboratory scientists etc)
- 1 governor from the Non Clinical Staff Class (eg. secretaries, estates staff etc.)

### 6 Who are appointed governors and what is their role?

We will have a statutory duty as an NHS Foundation Trust to have a number of appointed governors, including representatives from Primary Care Trusts and local authorities. Partner governors will be appointed by their organisation, and will be invited on to the Council of Governors rather than going through an election process. They will be expected to represent not just the interests of their organisation, but also those of other similar bodies connected to the Trust. There will be:

- 2 governors from Primary Care Trusts
- 6 governors from Local Authorities
- 4 governors from Partnership organisations

### 7 What qualifications are needed to become a governor?

You do not need to have any formal skills or qualifications to become a Governor, nor do you need any previous knowledge of the NHS. As holders of public office, all our governors will be expected to adhere to the seven Nolan principles of public life defined by the Nolan Committee. The principles are:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

To find out more about the Nolan principles please visit [www.public-standards.org.uk](http://www.public-standards.org.uk)

## **8 How long will I be governor?**

Governors will be elected or appointed for a term of office of three years. When your term of office has finished you can stand for re-election, but you can only be a governor for a maximum of nine years (three terms).

## **9 How much time will I need to give?**

The Council of Governors will meet four times a year. They will also be invited to attend the Trust's Annual General Meeting. The Council of Governors will also set up sub-groups to look at various issues eg. membership. The times, dates and venues of the Council of Governors' meetings will be agreed in advance to try and make sure that as many governors as possible can attend.

## **10 What training will be given?**

Governors will attend tailored training sessions where they will learn more about the NHS and Foundation Trusts, about our hospital services we provide and about the role of a Governor.

## **11 Will I be paid?**

Governor roles are unpaid, but we offer to reimburse travel expenses and reasonable costs.

## **12 Do I have to run an election campaign?**

No, this is run centrally by an election agency on behalf of the Trust. Members will choose a governor to represent them based on the short statement you give. Don't worry, your home address or contact details will not be given out – we will keep your information confidential.

## **13 Where can I find out more about governor eligibility?**

Our Trust Constitution had detailed information around who may not be eligible to become governor. To find out more please contact our Company Secretary.

## **14 Where can I find more information?**

Please visit:

**Our Trust website:**

<http://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk>

**Monitor, the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts' website:**

[www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk](http://www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk)

**Care Quality Commission, the regulator of health and adult and social care services in England's website:**

[www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)