

Enc 4

Elections to the council of governors 2017

1.0 Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to advise the board about the timings of this year's elections to the council of governors, detail those governors who have come to the end of their three year term and the number of vacancies in each constituency.

2.0 Background

Foundation trusts are required to hold elections to its council of governors. In line with legislation and statutory requirements, elections to the council of governors must be held in accordance with Monitor's (now NHS Improvement) Model Rules for Election.

As in previous years there will be local elections which will take place in May. Guidance from NHS Providers state that in law there is nothing to prevent governor elections taking place during the purdah period.

The current electoral provider, Electoral Reform Services (ERS), will carry out this service on Northumbria Healthcare's behalf.

Governors serve a three year term of office and can put themselves forward to stand again if they wish. The election process and communication plan to support elections are both reported to the council of governors through the membership committee.

3.0 Number of positions

Public and staff governors

The table below identifies the public, patient and staff governors whose term of office ends on 31 July 2017 along with the vacancies in each constituency;

Public governor elections 2017		
Constituency	Completion of 3 year term	Number of nominations required
Berwick upon Tweed	Linda Pepper	4
	Andrew Gray	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
Blyth Valley	Mavis Wilkinson	3
	Sean Fahey	
	Ken Patterson	
Hexham	Isobel Johnson	3
	Sheila Robson	
	Graham Ridley	
North Shields	Gill Close	2
	Vacancy	
North West Tyneside	Vacancy	1
Wansbeck	Julia Mann	3

	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
Wallsend	Ian McKee	2
	Vacancy	
Rest of England	Vacancy	1
Totals	11	19

Staff governor elections 2017		
Constituency	Completion of 3 year term	Number of nominations required
Alnwick	Vacancy	1
Morpeth and Blyth	Vacancy	1
Hexham	Vacancy	1
North Tyneside (including Cobalt)	Alison Bywater	5
	Kim Broadfield	
	Angela Moore	
	Jo Mackintosh	
	Vacancy	
Wansbeck	Vacancy	4
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
North Tyneside Community	Kevin Smith	1
Northumberland Community	Jason Wilkes	1
Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital	Vacancy	1
Totals	6	15

Rest of England

Recent approved constitutional amendments created the Rest of England constituency and set the minimum level of members as ten required prior to an election for a governor representative. Currently, we have over 30 members so will be required to hold an election for this position.

Staff governors

As you will see from the above table there are a considerable number of vacant staff governor positions – we have no staff governors representing Wansbeck, Alnwick and Morpeth and Blyth.

We have promoted the role of the staff governor many times and used different approaches over the years but lately have failed to convert the initial interest into people completing an election form. Anecdotal feedback has shown that it is the time commitment required especially when in a frontline role; we have recently asked for support from line managers to enable the time to carry out the role of the staff governor.

Timetable

Following discussions and agreement after the 2015 elections, this year's elections will again be run on an earlier timetable. This will allow us to complete the relevant checks,

including DBS, on all newly elected governors before they take up their post on 1 August 2017.

- Nomination forms will be available from Electoral Reform Services from Monday 13 March 2017.
- Requests should be made either by telephone on 0208 88 99 203 or via email to ciara.norris@electoralreform.co.uk
- Completed nomination forms must be returned to ERS by no later than 5pm on Monday 10 April 2017.
- Notice of Poll published Thursday 4 May 2017.
- Voting pack despatched to members in contested constituencies on Friday 5 May 2017.
- Close of election on Wednesday 31 May 2017.
- **Declaration of results on Thursday 1 June 2017.**

4.0 Recommendation

The board is asked to note the content of this paper and current position with regard to the council of governor election process and support the process of encouraging people to become staff governors.

Jennifer Coe
Head of foundation, community and engagement
January 2016