

The role of our governors

Our governors are an important part of our trust as they are the link between our members and the Board of Directors.

Governors listen to the views of members and the public, let people know about local healthcare services and feedback any views to the trust.

This leaflet explains more
about their important role

building
a caring
future

HOSPITAL | COMMUNITY | HOME

Our governors

As a foundation trust we are accountable to our local communities.

Our governors are an important part of our trust as they are the link between our members (staff, patient and public) and our Board of Directors. They listen to our members and the public's views and feedback to our trust, ensuring we engage with and respond to their needs.

The role of the Council of Governors

This is a voluntary role, however governors have various statutory and non-statutory duties, some of which can be seen below:

- To represent the interests of members and the public.
- Work with the Board of Directors and contribute to the trust's strategic development and priorities, to make sure that we are tackling what's important for our patients and their families.
- Hold the Board of Directors to account, by making sure that we do what we say we will do.
- Safeguard the values of the organisation, so that we always put patients first in everything we do.
- Involve the users of our services and their families, helping us to improve their experience.
- To appoint, remove and decide upon the terms of office of the chair and non-executive directors of the trust, including their remuneration.
- To jointly approve changes to the trust's constitution with the board.

The interaction between the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors is extremely important and for our governors to hold our Board to account, the relationship requires openness, transparency, candour and trust. It also requires governors to have an understanding of how the Board assures itself on quality and performance issues.

Please visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/constitution to see our governance structure which our Board and Council of Governors must refer to, to enable them to fulfil their statutory duties. Or for more information you can call us on 0191 203 1296.

What we expect from our governors

In line with the NHS Constitution, those who engage in public service are expected to uphold a set of values that underpin such service and which are integral to the work of the trust. Our governors therefore, are required to follow the Code of Conduct which sets out how governors should behave in carrying out their role. A breach of the provisions of the Code of Conduct could result in removal from office.

We also expect our governors to do their best to:

- attend general and development meetings
- engage with and recruit members
- represent the views and needs of members and our local communities
- participate in training and development opportunities
- act professionally and in line with the Code of Conduct when attending events or carrying out activities on behalf of the trust.

How we support our governors

The foundation team acts as a central point of contact for our governors and provides support in the following ways:

- We hold regular informal governor constituency meetings with our Chair.
- Provide appropriate training and development opportunities.
- Organise meetings and events.
- Provide advice and support, including one-to-one sessions if required.
- Regularly promote governors externally.
- Provide weekly updates on trust developments.
- Reimbursement of travelling expenses.



If you have any queries or require further information on our governors please visit:

www.northumbria.nhs.uk/governors

If you are interested in becoming a governor of our trust, you must be a member. To find out more about becoming a member please visit:

www.northumbria.nhs.uk/members

Alternatively, you can call the foundation team on:

0191 203 1296