

ARE YOU**INTERESTED IN BECOMING****A GOVERNOR?**

Governors are an important link between members, staff, patients, public and our board of directors. They give feedback and ensure the trust engage and respond to issues that are brought to their attention.

Public and staff governors are elected from within the constituencies they represent. A small number of governors are appointed by our universities, local authorities, other NHS foundation trusts and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.

Our public constituencies are:

- Berwick
- Blyth Valley
- Hexham
- North Shields
- North West Tyneside
- Wallsend
- Wansbeck
- Whitley Bay
- Rest of England



THE ROLE OF A GOVERNOR

This is a voluntary role, however, governors have various statutory and non-statutory duties. A governor's main role is to:

- **Hold the non-executive directors (NEDs) individually and collectively to account for the performance of the board of directors.**
- **Represent the interest of our members and of the public.**

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.

Governors and board members need an understanding and a respect for each other's roles. It requires, for example, governors to have an understanding of how the board assures itself on quality and performance issues.

GOVERNANCE

Please visit the [NHS Statutory Duties Guide](#) which gives in detail our governance structure. Our board and council of governors refer to this to enable them to fulfil their statutory duties.

Alternatively you can contact us on **0191 203 1296** for more information.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM 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.

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 GOVERNORS ARE SUPPORTED

We have a specific team (the foundation team) acting as a central point of contact for our governors and providing support in the following ways:

- Induction and training for new governors
- 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.

WHEN GOVERNORS ARE ELECTED

The trust gives notice that it will hold elections to the council of Governors normally around April each year. If you are interested in becoming a governor of our trust, you must be a member.

To find out more about becoming a **governor** please visit:
www.northumbria.nhs.uk/governors

BECOMING A MEMBER

Joining us as a member will give you the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas about the way the trust delivers care to over half a million people across Northumberland and North Tyneside.

You can be involved as much or as little as you like, from simply receiving e-newsletters and voting papers to donating your time as a volunteer or standing for election to become a trust governor. It is free to become a member and you can opt out at any time.

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.