

Becoming a governor FAQs 2022

Am I qualified to be a governor?

You don't need any formal qualifications to be a governor – just your interest and enthusiasm. You must be at least 16 years old and a member of Northumbria Healthcare. If you aren't a member yet, sign up [now](#).

Membership is open to anyone aged 12 or over and you can be involved as much or as little as you want. What's more it's free.

You must become a member by Thursday 12 May to take part in this year's election, both as a candidate and to vote.

Where are the vacancies this year?

There are vacancies available in the following public constituencies this year:

- Berwick upon Tweed (two vacancies)
- Blyth Valley (three vacancies)
- North West Tyneside (one vacancy)
- Wansbeck (one vacancy)
- Wallsend (two vacancies)
- North Shields (one vacancy)

There are vacancies available in the following staff constituencies this year:

- Berwick Infirmary (one vacancy)
- Morpeth NHS centre and Blyth community hospital (one vacancy)
- Wansbeck general hospital (one vacancy)
- Hexham general hospital (two vacancies)
- North Tyneside general hospital (two vacancies)

If there isn't a vacancy in your area there may be one next year, keep an eye on [our website](#).

Where can I stand?

You will be able to stand as a candidate and vote in the constituency and class where you are a member. For example, if you have signed up as public member in the Blyth Valley constituency you can stand as a governor and vote only in the Blyth Valley constituency.

If you are unsure of your constituency, please email us at foundation@northumbria.nhs.uk and we'll check it for you.

How do I nominate myself?

You can nominate yourself via our online election portal at www.cesvotes.com/northumbria2022 or you can request a paper form by:

Phone 0208 889 9203

Email: ftnominationenquiries@cesvotes.com

Text: Text 2FT NO and your name and address to 88802

Nominations close at 5pm on 12 May.

What does the nomination need?

Your nomination will ask for a 250-word election statement. This will give your community an idea of what you stand for. Why do you want to become a governor? What aspects of your local health services do you feel strongly about? What do you feel you can most contribute?

Your statement is entirely up to you, but the word limit is strict. You can include a photo of yourself in your election statement and we strongly recommend you do so - it will make you more approachable.

How do I improve my chances?



By far the best way to improve your chances to get elected is to invite your friends and acquaintances to join the Trust – and then encourage them to vote for you!

In order to vote in this year's elections, they must become members by 12 May.

What are the key dates?

The key dates in our elections are:

Nomination stage

- Opened Monday 11 April 2022
- Close Thursday 12 May 2022 at 5:00PM

Election (voting) stage

- Open Tuesday 7 June 2022
- Close Thursday 30 June 2022 at 5:00PM

Declaration of results - Friday 1 July 2022

What happens after the poll?

Once the results are declared, all newly elected governors are invited to take part in a governor induction and complete the necessary paperwork i.e. code of conduct, declaration of interests, DBS (criminal record) check

We also expect all governors to provide a short biography and a photograph to be published on the Trust website – we want our governors to be accessible to those who elected them.

Governors will then officially take their posts on 1 August 2022.

How much time do I need to put in?

The Council of Governors meets formally four times a year (January, April, July and October) at our general meetings, usually on a Wednesday from 5pm to 7pm. As a governor you are expected to attend these meetings, although we understand it's sometimes not possible for everyone to make every meeting. Agendas are sent to you in advance to enable you to prepare for the meeting and see what is set to be discussed.

We also arrange monthly development meetings to give governors more of an insight into the workings of the trust, these meetings are more informal than the general meetings and also meet on a Wednesday evening towards the end of the month – we try to avoid school holidays where possible. Agendas are sent to you in advance to enable you to prepare for the meeting and see what is set to be discussed.

Public governors meet monthly as a constituency with the Chair and our staff governors meet bi-monthly with the chief executive. These meetings take place both face to face and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

We also give governors the opportunity to sit on trust committees such as safety and quality and patient feedback to give a better understanding of the trust work and allow governors to see the non-executive directors that chair the meetings 'in action'.

Governors are elected for a period of up to three years, but you can resign at any time by writing to the company secretary or chairman of the Trust.

Will I get paid?

The governor role is an unpaid public service role, similar to that of a school governor. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

What's in it for me?

For many people, contributing to causes they find meaningful is rewarding in itself. As a governor you will also get the opportunity to learn new skills and get exposed to new situations. It could be getting more confident in public speaking, meeting like-minded people or simply liaising as equals with the kind of people you never have collaborated with before.

Above all, you will have a chance to shape your local health services.