



**Bridgewater
Community Healthcare**
NHS Foundation Trust

THE ROLE OF A GOVERNOR



Membership

Anyone who lives in the area, works for the trust, or has been a patient or a service user, can become a member of our Trust. Public membership is available to any individual aged 14 years and over who live in the areas below. This provides staff and local people a real stake in the future of community services served by Bridgewater. There are two constituencies of membership, public membership and staff membership.

The public constituency comprises of those members that live in one of the following public areas:

- Halton
- Warrington
- Rest of England

The staff constituency comprise of staff who work at the Trust:

- **Registered Nurses, Midwives Allied Health Professionals and any other registered healthcare professionals.**
- **Clinical Support Staff including Assistant Practitioners, Healthcare Assistants and trainee clinical staff**
- **Registered Medical Practitioners**
- **Registered Dental Practitioners**
- **Non - clinical support staff including managerial and administrative staff**

Public Governance

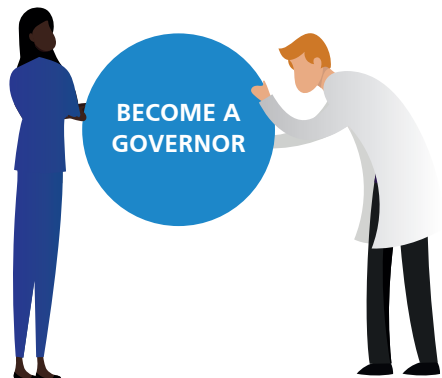
The Council of Governors has responsibility for representing the interests of the members, partner organisations and members of the public and is made up of the following representative Constituencies:

Public Governors

Public governors are elected by the Trust's public members. Public members within the electoral areas are able to vote during an electoral process on the person they wish to represent them as a governor of the trust.

Staff Governors

Staff governors are elected by the Trust's staff membership. Staff members within the electoral staff groups are able to vote during an electoral process on the person they wish to represent them as a governor of the trust. Staff governors bring their own knowledge and skills from their working lives and represent their colleagues' views within the organisation.



Partner Governors

Partner governors are nominated by key local partnership organisations that work closely with the Trust. They bring their knowledge and experience to the Council and help the Trust to work in partnership with the community.

Governor Duties

Governors perform a range of statutory and non-statutory duties. The statutory duties are set out in the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Who can become a Governor?

Governors are local people who have an interest in healthcare and care about helping to improve their local healthcare services for the good of the whole community and who are keen to develop stronger links between the Trust and the community it serves.

Governor Training

Governors will receive appropriate training to be able to undertake the role and be expected to attend induction meetings, ongoing training events, board to governor events and others.

Commitment

Governors are expected to attend five out of six Council of Governor meetings in any one financial year. Some commitment to attend governor working groups is a must as it provides a greater understanding of the issues facing the Trust. Consideration will be required to the amount of time you have available. There is no requirement on employers to provide time off, as there is for undertaking some other public duties.

Governor Statutory duties include:

Holding the non-executive directors to account individually and collectively for the performance of the Board.

The appointment and, if appropriate, removal of the chair and other nonexecutive directors.

Approve the remuneration and allowances, and other terms and conditions of office, of the chair and other non-executive directors;

Approve the appointment of the Chief Executive on recommendation from the Board Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

Appoint, re-appoint and, if appropriate, remove the auditor.

Receive the annual report and accounts and any report on these provided by the auditor.

Approve any 'significant transactions' as defined within the trust's constitution; Approve an application by the Trust to enter into a merger, acquisition, separation or dissolution.

Decide whether the Trust's non-NHS work would significantly interfere with its principal purpose, which is to provide goods and services for the health service in England, or performing its other functions.

Approve amendments to the Trust's constitution.

Governors need to:

Recognise that a health service is complex with many issues to address to ensure its smooth running and be able to operate effectively.

Be able to put the needs of the community above personal preference
Be keen to understand and be able to champion the needs of the local community
Actively listen and value the contributions of different people.

Be enthusiastic and committed and want to work as part of a cohesive team.

Be keen to learn and keep updated
Be able to ask questions in a constructive, not a confrontational manner.

Be willing to read relevant documents and papers, attend relevant meetings and training the Trust will provide

Council of Governors' meetings

The Council of Governors meets formally up to six times per year in public and anyone can attend to listen to the meeting.

At the meeting, governors receive the latest performance information and have the chance to analyse it and raise questions. The meeting is chaired by the Trust Chair and attended by Executive and Non-Executive directors.

Governors also have a number of working groups which they lead on which allows them to bring information and views to the main council meeting.

Our governors are represented on a number of key committees and working groups including the Remuneration Committee, Nominations Committee, Quality & Safety Committee and Audit Committee.

A wide range of briefing sessions and workshops take place throughout the year to both inform the governors of trust initiatives and work programmes and gain their views and support.

Trust Board meeting observation

Governors are able to attend these meetings as an observer to enable them to fulfil the statutory duty to hold to the non – executive directors, individually, and collectively, to account for the performance of the board.

Governor attendance at organised and supported events

The Governors support the trust and engage with both membership and the public across the trust's catchment area attending local engagements events.

To apply to become a governor you will need to:

Be a member of the Trust

Be over 16 years of age

Live in the area that is open for election

Contact Us



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<https://bridgewater.nhs.uk/ft/governors/>



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