

The Role of Governors

NHS Foundation Trusts share all the same values, quality and safety standards as NHS Trusts, but they are 'owned' by their members who elect a Council of Governors to represent the views of members, patients, staff, partner organisations and the public.

This means that the Council of Governors is an important link between our local communities and staff, and the Trust Board, which has the responsibility of running the organisation and preparing the Trust's strategy. The Council of Governors works alongside the Trust's Board of Directors to help local communities and staff have a greater say in the strategic direction of the Trust, and how services are developed and delivered by the Trust.

The main roles of Council of Governors as set out by the Government are to:

- Represent the interests of the people within their constituency or partner organisation, report feedback on our services and, wherever possible, how they could be improved.
- Hold Non-Executive Directors to account for the Board's performance.

In²gether, the Council of Governors fulfils these roles by:

- Meeting with service users, carers, members and the public in their local community or staff group, to listen to their experiences and ideas and to provide feedback to the Trust, especially if a particular issue is seen as a trend.
- Commenting for the membership on the Board's strategic direction and annual planning, before it is finalised.
- Participating in Trust initiatives to inform local communities, partner organisations and staff about the Trust's plans, and celebrate achievements.
- Questioning the Non-Executive Directors about the performance and effectiveness of the Board and its Committees.
- Conducting formal business such as:
 - Appointing and, if appropriate, removing the Trust Chair and the Non-Executive Directors.
 - Having a say in the appointment of the Chief Executive.
 - Approving the appraisal process for the Chair and Non-Executive Directors.
 - Appointing and, if appropriate, removing the Trust's External Auditors.
 - Receiving the Trust's annual report and accounts (once these have been laid before Parliament) in order to understand the Trust's performance.
 - Approving major transactions such as acquisitions, mergers or large tenders.