

Make a difference as a Governor of our NHS Foundation Trust

Could YOU be the next elected voice of our members?

Are you passionate about the NHS and would you like to be a voice for patients, their families, carers and NHS staff? If so, why not stand for election as a Governor of our NHS Foundation Trust?



Our Governors have a key role in talking to our members and the public, and listening to their views and suggestions about the health services we provide and our future plans. Governors then share this information with the Board of Directors, who are responsible for running the Trust. This helps to ensure that our plans and priorities reflect the needs and wishes of our members and the wider community we serve.

Our Council of Governors has 32 elected and nominated Governors, who include:

- 17 Governors elected from and by the public (public members)
- 7 Governors elected from and by our staff (staff members)
- 8 Governors nominated by our partner organisations.

What do Governors do?

Governors have a key role in representing the interests and views of our members (staff and public) and the wider general public and in supporting our Trust's performance by:

- Helping us to promote membership opportunities and the role of Governor
- Developing networks for engaging members (staff and public) and the wider community, including minority groups
- Seeking the views of members (public and staff) and the wider public when developing our future plans and priorities and sharing these with our Board of Directors
- Seeking assurance from our Board of Directors around the Trust's performance and conveying key performance assurance information to members and the wider public.

Can I be a Governor?

In order to stand for election as a Governor, you must be:

- An eligible member (public or staff) of our NHS Foundation Trust
- Aged 16 years or over
- Public Governors must live in the area that they represent
- Staff Governors must have a job role in the staff class that they represent.

You do not need specific qualifications for the Governor role, just an interest in healthcare and a commitment to representing members and the wider public to the best of your ability.



Governors receive training for the role, and are supported by our Foundation Trust Membership Office. Whilst unpaid, Governors can claim for authorised expenses incurred such as travel.

We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion of staff, patients, carers, families, members and the communities that we serve. We believe that by having an inclusive culture, listening to all our people and respecting each other, we will deliver our commitment to quality, diversity and inclusion.

As part of this commitment we aim to have a Board and Council of Governors whose membership reflects the diverse communities that we serve. We support our Governors in becoming more representative of our members and communities whether in respect of race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, caring responsibility, social class and pregnancy and maternity.

When are the Governor Elections held?

Elections are usually held each year (around Summer/Autumn) to fill vacant seats and/or those seats where a Governor's term of office is coming to an end. Our elections are run by an independent, external organisation and at the start of the election process, an election timetable and associated formal notices are posted on our website via our dedicated 'Governor Election' webpage:

<https://mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/elections/>

How do I apply for membership?

If you are not currently a member but are interested in becoming one and subsequently standing for election as a Governor, please complete a Membership Application Form by:

Going online to www.mft.nhs.uk and clicking the 'Become a Member of our Trust – Membership Form' button.

Contacting the Foundation Trust Membership Office for a hard copy of the form via e-mail ft.enquiries@mft.nhs.uk or telephone 0161 276 8661.

Over the years, members have shared with us what motivated them to stand for election as a Governor:

- Passionate commitment to the NHS and to the Trust's hospitals and the desire to make a difference.
- To make a positive contribution to ensure patients and carers get the highest quality of care at the Trust.
- To use their personal experience as a patient/carer to help improve standards of care quality and safety, and the care environment.
- To be a voice/advocate for what matters the most to patients and their families, and to the wider community.
- To be a voice/advocate for staff and share their perspective with the Board of Directors.
- To give a voice to particular communities/groups e.g. ethnic minorities, people with learning disabilities, etc.

If you would like more information about the Governor role and/or standing for election, please contact the Foundation Trust Membership Office by:

Post: Freepost Plus RRBR-AXBU-XTZT
MFT NHS Trust, Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9WL

Phone: 0161 276 8661

E-mail: ft.enquiries@mft.nhs.uk



www.mft.nhs.uk