BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOSPITALS

Amersham  Stoke Mandeville  Wycombe

Where the needs of the patient always come first
The role of the
NHS Foundation Trust
governor

Elizabeth Palmer, Company Secretary
Local accountability

- NHS foundation trusts are rooted in the concept of local accountability
- NHS Foundation Trust governors are the direct representatives of local interests in the governance structure of a trust
- Governors
  - perform functions that go well beyond community liaison
  - have statutory responsibilities derived from the NHS Act 2006 and have the potential to have a significant effect on the management of a Trust
Accountability in action

Each appoints the next

Membership
Public and
Staff

Council of
Governors

Non-executive
Directors

Executive
Directors

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

← Each answers to the previous
Accountability in action - roles

• Members
  • vote to elect governors and can stand for election themselves

• Council of Governors
  • represent the interest of NHS Foundation Trust members and partner organisations from the local community
  • hold the Board of Directors to account for the performance of the Trust
  • exercise statutory duties

• Board of Directors
  • executive and non-executive directors
  • collective responsibility for the performance of the Trust
  • exercise powers on behalf of the Trust
Public membership

- Public constituencies
  - Aylesbury Vale
    - 4 governors
  - Wycombe
    - 4 governors
  - Chiltern
    - 2 governors
  - South Bucks
    - 2 governors
  - Rest of England
    - 2 governors
Shape of the Council of Governors

The Council of Governors consists of 26 governors plus the Chairman

- Elected public governors = 14
- Elected staff governors = 5
- Appointed partner governors = 5
- Appointed statutory governors = 2
Shape of the Council of Governors

- The Council of Governors is chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors

- Ensures strong communication between the two groups and a common purpose in ensuring the Trust is well governed while recognising the different roles of the Council and the Board

- Public governors are in the majority on the Council – a statutory requirement

- A significant majority of governors are elected
Statutory duties

• The NHS 2006 Act gives governors powers to:
  • appoint or remove the chair and non-executive directors
  • approve the appointment of the chief executive
  • decide the remuneration and allowances, and other terms and conditions of office, of the chair and other non-executive directors
  • appoint or remove the Trust’s auditor
  • receive the Trust’s audit report and scrutinise the Trust’s annual plan
• A position of considerable responsibility
• Genuine powers at their disposal
• Provide a direct link between the Trust and its membership base
Standing for election

- The election process will start when the Trust’s NHS Foundation Trust application has received approval from the Secretary of State and is forwarded to Monitor, the independent regulator
- The process will be managed by an election services supplier and will be completely external to the Trust
- Key dates
  - publication of the notice of election (day 1)
  - final day for return of nominations to the returning officer (day 12)
  - final opportunity to withdraw as a candidate (day 15)
  - notice of poll (day 25)
  - close of poll (day 40)
What you need to do

- Complete a nomination paper (self nomination)
  - available once the election process starts
  - you will be asked to declare any financial interests, membership of any political party and that you are eligible to stand for election as a governor
- Provide a passport photograph
- Provide a personal statement of not more than 250 words that outlines your skills and experience and why you want to be a governor
  - this will go to members as part of the voting papers to inform their decision
Commitment

• Governors will be elected for a term of office of up to three years
  • governors may stand for re-election at the end of their term of office

• Formal Council meetings four times a year
  • one of which will be the Annual Members’ Meeting
  • timing and venue to be agreed in consultation with the Council

• Committee meetings/Task groups
  • nominations
  • membership

• Induction and other training
Support

- This will come from the Company Secretary’s team
- Comprehensive induction programme
- Training to meet the needs of individuals
- Provision of information for meetings
- Engaging with the membership
  - web
  - newsletters
  - focus groups
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Monitor:  
www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk

publications/guidance for foundation trusts/reports and guidance for governors