

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOSPITALS

Amersham Stoke Mandeville Wycombe

*Where the needs of the patient
always come first*



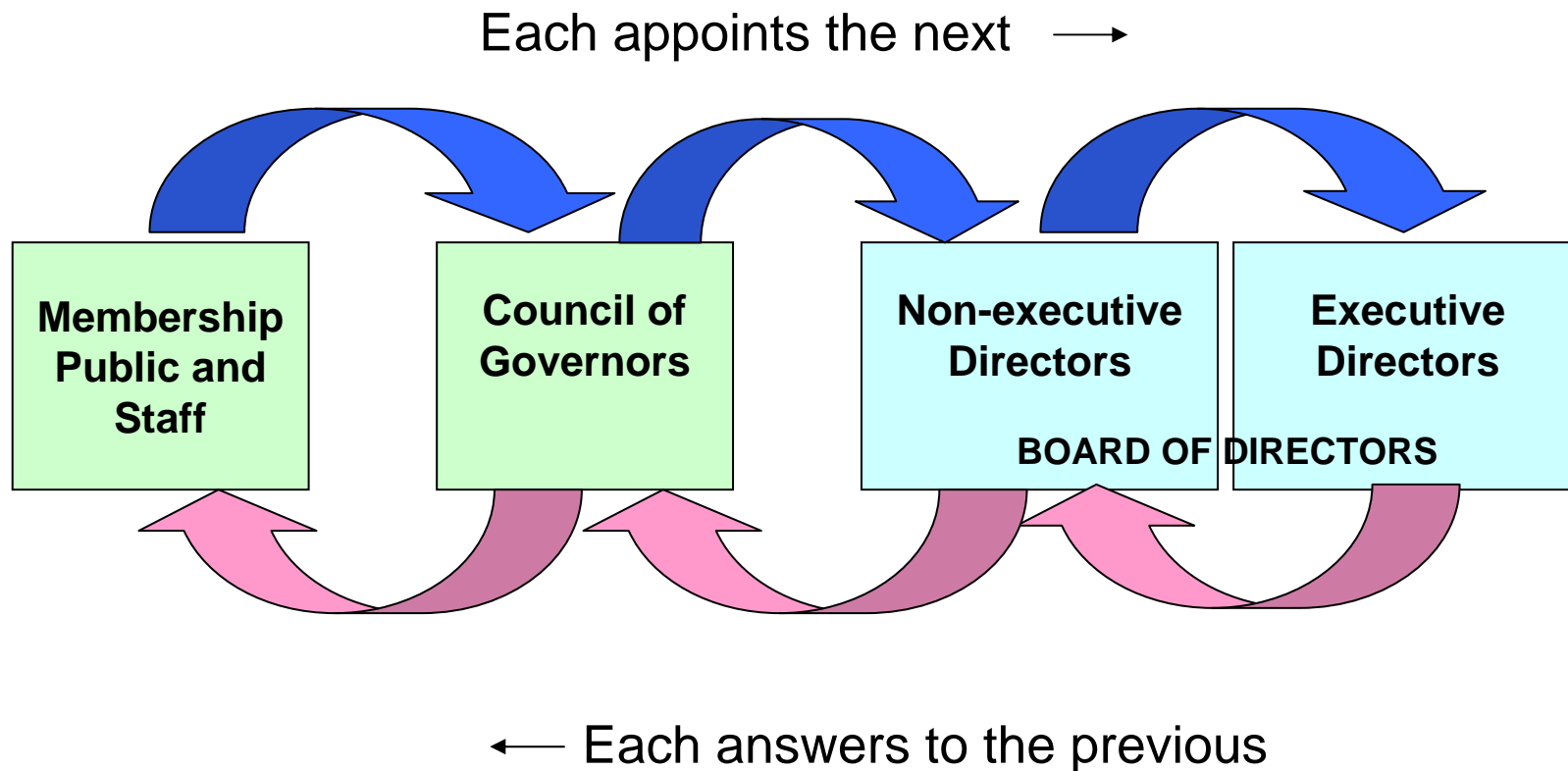
The role of the NHS Foundation Trust governor

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



Accountability in action - roles

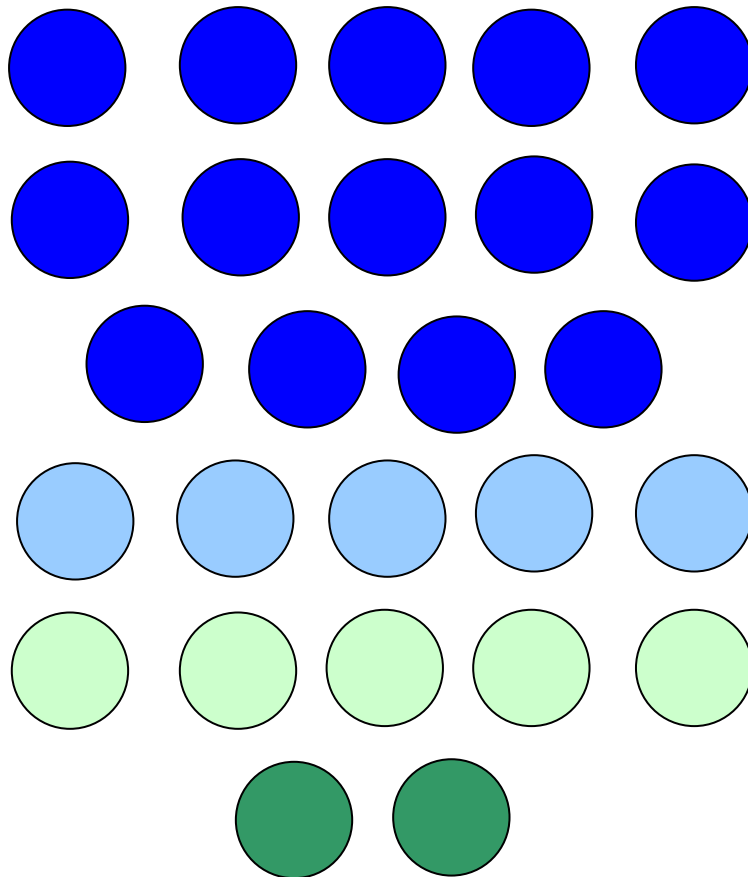
- Members
 - vote to elect governors and can stand for election themselves
- Council of Governors
 - represent the interest of NHS Foundation Trust members and partner organisations from the local community
 - hold the Board of Directors to account for the performance of the Trust
 - exercise statutory 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

Contact details:

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Monitor:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk

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