

Council of governors explained

As a Foundation Trust, our hospital has a Council of Governors which ensures that our key stakeholders – patients, members of the public, staff and partner organisations – have a say in shaping their local health service.

In simple terms, our staff governors hold non-executive directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the board of directors, and represent the interests of NHS foundation trust members and of the public.

Our governors represent the interests of staff and members. They:

- appoint the chair and non-executive directors of the Trust, and approve the appointment of the chief executive
- have input into the Trust's strategy
- make the final decision on any mergers, acquisitions, separations and dissolutions, in line with the NHS Constitution
- are the voice of their communities, sharing their ideas, concerns, and suggestions on a wider platform
- are consulted on any planned changes to local health services
- tell the Board what they think the hospital and its services should offer, and work to ensure that staff and community needs are taken into account in the planning of services
- meet and speak to members in their constituency to hear their views
- bring valuable perspective and contribution to the Trust's activities
- appoint the Trust's external auditors
- have real influence on the strategic direction and governance of the Trust.

More details about being a governor can be found on the [gov.uk website: Information for governors.](#)

**Want to join our foundation trust?
Find out more about becoming a member [here.](#)**

Putting you first