

Becoming a Foundation Trust Governor



Our Trust and being a Member

- **Our history** - Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear has been a NHS Foundation Trust since December 2009. As a Foundation Trust if we didn't have members like yourself, we wouldn't have a Trust, so it is **important** to keep our membership well represented by the public, service users and carers, our workforce and partners across the North East, North Cumbria and beyond.
- **What is a Foundation Trust?** - NHS Foundation Trusts were originally created back in 2003 as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2003. We are free from central government control which gives us the freedom to make our own decisions for the Trust. However, we are still subject to statutory requirements and we all have a duty to show and prove we are working effectively, efficiently, and economically.
- **What is a Member?** – A NHS Foundation trust Member has an opportunity to help shape your local NHS in many ways. As a member you can do as little or as much as you like, including receive regular membership newsletters about what we have going on, complete questionnaires to voice your views, get to attend membership events and meet the staff and Directors. You can also vote for governors in elections or stand as a governor yourself.
- **Our membership is made up of the following constituencies:**
 - **Service Users** - Our Service user members are people who have used our services within the last 4 years.
 - **Carers** - Our Carer members are people who look after someone who has used our services within the last six years
 - **Public** - Our Public members can live anywhere in England and Wales.
 - **Staff** - Anyone employed by CNTW or NTW Solutions.

Anyone can become a member as long as you are aged 14 and above.

Our Council of Governors

- **What is a NHS Foundation Trust Governor?** - Governors are elected by members of the Trust including service users, carers, staff and the public. They hold the board of directors to account, as well as carrying out many other duties. We have a very strong and vocal Council of Governors who work very closely alongside the Board of Directors and services. Our Council of Governors is made up of people from the following membership and constituency groups:
 - 7 Public Governors
 - 7 Carer Governors
 - 7 Service User Governors
 - 7 Governors from each council that we have services in
 - 7 Staff Governors
 - 2 Governors from Community and Voluntary Organisations
 - 2 Governors from Local Universities

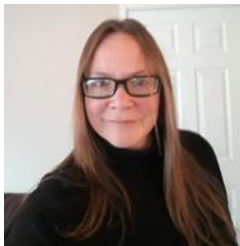
- **Who can be a Governor?** – To nominate yourself to be a Governor you must be a Member of the Trust and be aged 16 and above.

- **What is expected from someone on the Council of Governors?** – There are some things that Governors must do to make sure CNTW's Board of Directors are doing their job well and **there are important rules about what Governors must do in their job:**
 - Governors must represent members of the Trust and the Public.
 - Governors must think about CNTW's work and how it will affect people across all areas.
 - Governors must decide whether CNTW is doing its best for everybody.
 - Governors are required to attend the Council of Governor meetings 4 times per year, this can be in person or online through Microsoft Teams video calling.
 - The Board of Directors and other people in the Trust write reports and plans that Governors are required to read/discuss/approve at the Council of Governors meetings.

- The Council of Governors can also get involved in other activities including:
 - Taking part in Governor and Board Committees and activities. These Committees meet to discuss important things in more detail than the normal Council of Governor Meetings do not allow time for, but everything is then fed back to the full Council of Governors, so no one is ever excluded from any information they need to see.
 - Governors can visit CNTW services with Staff members and help us make sure the environment in which they are working from is good and stable.
 - Governors choose and vote for a Lead Governor for the Council. Our current Lead Governor is Margaret Adams. She works with the Chairman to make sure the Council of Governors works well. The Lead Governor takes up this role for 3 years at a time.

- **What happens if I am successful in being elected on to the council of Governors?** – You will be invited to an Induction with all the other new Governors and sometimes some of the current Governors come along to meet you as well. Here you will meet the Corporate Affairs Team, learn more in depth about the Governor role, receive any resources you need and you will also be asked to sign our **Code of Conduct**, this is very important as it will help you to understand how you should behave when representing the Trust as a Governor and what you can and cannot do in your role.
- **How can I become a Governor and how long for?** – You can nominate yourself to be a Governor whenever we announce our Elections. If more than one person puts in a nomination for a post, then the members of your constituency vote for who they wish to represent them. If you are the only nomination, you will automatically be elected on to the Council. Once elected you will serve for a term of 3 years, at which point you could stand again if you wish to continue, or you can choose to step down. You can be elected up to 3 times, as long as you are still eligible.

What support will I receive as a Governor? - As a Trust we will make sure that you have all the information, advice and support to do your role well. The Corporate Affairs Office is the first point of contact for our Governors, these are:



Debbie Henderson
Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs/Company Secretary



Kirsty Allan
Corporate Governance Manager



Jack Wilson
Membership and Engagement Officer

You can talk to any of us within the Corporate Affairs Office via:

Phone 0191 2456827 or email corporateaffairs@cntw.nhs.uk