

## **A brief summary of the role of the Council of Governors**

Governors have an important role in making an NHS foundation trust publicly accountable for the services it provides. They bring valuable perspectives and contributions to its activities.

The general duties of the Council of Governors are:-

- To hold the non-executive directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the Board of Directors; and
- To represent the interests of the members of the trust as a whole and the interests of the public.

The Council of Governors is not responsible for the day to day running of the Trust. This responsibility remains with the Board of Directors, who ensures that the Council of Governors is fully involved in determining the future plans for the Trust.

The role of the Council of Governors is to:

- Contribute to the development of forward plans for the Trust with the Board of Directors, and
- Ensure that the interests of the community served by the Trust are appropriately represented.

The following areas are the main focus of activities for the Council of Governors, in addition to their statutory responsibilities.

- To consult with members (and the public where appropriate) and reflect the considered views of the membership.
- To take ownership of the Membership Strategy and develop plans for growing and develop the membership.
- To develop their roles, both individually and collectively, as ambassadors of the Trust
- To contribute to the development of the Trust's forward agenda

The Council of Governors meets at regular intervals with three formal meetings taking place at least 3 times per year.

For further information, please refer to Monitor's guide for NHS foundation trust governors available [here](#).