

Want to know more about being a governor for Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust?

Governors are the voice of our patients, carers, staff and local people



About Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

We provide a wide range of services as follows:

- Community health services in Bexley and Greenwich, providing physical healthcare from birth to the end of a person's life.
- Mental health services in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich, providing support and care to children and young people, adults and older adults.
- Adult learning disability services in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich.
- Forensic mental health and challenging behaviour services in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham and health services in prisons in Kent and London.
- We also own Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup and provide a range of services there alongside a number of other NHS providers.

About our Council of Governors

Our 37 governors come from all walks of life. Some are people who live in local boroughs or more widely within England and have an interest in the NHS. Others are people who use our services or care for someone who uses them. Some of our staff are governors. We also have governors who represent our local Councils and voluntary and community groups. Being a governor is voluntary.

The common ground for everyone is an interest in Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust and the wide range of services we provide.

Our governors cover the following constituencies:

Public constituencies

- Bexley (3 governors)
- Bromley (3 governors)
- Greenwich (3 governors)
- Rest of England (1 governor)

Service user/carer constituencies (divided into special interest groups)

- Bexley Adults (2 governors)
- Bromley Adults (2 governors)
- Greenwich Adults (2 governors)
- Children (2 governors)
- Carers (1 governor)
- Forensic & Prison (1 governor)
- Learning disability (1 governor)

Staff constituencies

- 7 governors (divided into staff classes)

Appointed governors

- Local authorities (3 governors), partner organisations (6 governors)

What are the main things governors do?

Being a governor is a serious and important role.

The statutory duties of the Council are:

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

For all meetings, governors need to read agendas and supporting papers in advance of the Council of Governors' meetings.

Some documents can be lengthy. Governors are also expected to comment on documents and plans and ask any relevant questions at Council of Governors' meetings. We provide training and support to help you do this and will discuss with you any adjustments required to meet your needs.

Governors also have an ambassadorial role representing and promoting the trust by acting as a link between patients, the public and the Board of Directors. To do this, governors meet and engage with their members at our Annual Members' Meeting (AMM), Members' Focus Groups, other trust and public events and when visiting services.

In addition, our Council of Governors has several sub-committees which many governors find a good way of putting their role into action. Governors can also observe Board of Directors' meetings and its sub-committees which are all chaired by non-executive directors.

Lastly, we will ensure you receive training to help you undertake your governor role. You will have to attend a governor induction meeting before you can take up your role, and attend ongoing training events, joint governor/director meetings and members' events.

All new governors are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. You will also be asked to formally confirm your agreement to adhere to the Council of Governors' Code of Conduct, Confidentiality for governors, Governors' declaration and complete a Declaration of Interests form. You cannot join our Council of Governors until all of these are completed and returned to us.

Have you got what it takes to be a governor at Oxleas?

Can you answer 'yes' to the following statements?

- I am a member of Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.
- I am aged 16 years or older.
- I have some time to spare during the day.
- I can commit to being a governor for the next three years.
- I will attend Council meetings.
- I am interested in the NHS.
- I am interested in becoming a governor.

If you answered 'yes' to the statements above, here is some information to help you decide if being a governor is for you.

Being a governor is voluntary but we do pay expenses to cover travel costs.

What else are we looking for in a governor?

We are looking for people who:

- Are able to commit to attending Council of Governors' meetings four times a year.
- Are able to commit to attending induction and other training opportunities for governors.
- Are able to read lots of information and reports before meetings and ask questions at meetings.
- Would like to get involved in other governor and trust activities.
- Want to help make a difference to your local NHS.
- Want to help the trust by seeking members' views and feeding these back.
- Are able to work with people from different backgrounds and cultures and respect everyone's viewpoint.

In return we will offer you:

- An induction programme to help you understand the trust and meet key people.
- Access to our governor intranet which includes lots of information about the Council of Governors and Board of Directors, information about the trust, policies, procedures and other key documents.
- Training and support based on your own individual needs.
- The opportunity to work with people from different backgrounds and cultures.
- The opportunity to get involved in committees, serious incident inquiry panels, and short term project boards.
- The opportunity to join organised visits to our sites and services.
- The opportunity to get involved in member and public events.
- Reimbursement of travel and other expenses.
- A dedicated support team should you need any help or information.

If you want to talk to someone about becoming a governor, you can speak to us or if you prefer, we can put you in touch with one of our governors who can tell you about their personal experience of being a governor.

You can also find out more about our governors on our website www.oxleas.nhs.uk/about-us/council-of-governors/

Why not call us on 01322 625752 or email oxl-tr.governors@nhs.net. For more information about becoming a governor visit NHS Providers <https://nhsproviders.org/programmes/governwell/support-and-guidance/so-youre-thinking-about-becoming-a-governor>