

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

Governors are the voice of patients, carers and local people within 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.
- I can commit to being a governor for the next three years.
- 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. However, there are some things you would need to commit to doing, for example attending the Council of Governors' meetings four times a year and our Annual Members' Meeting (AMM).

What are the main things governors do?

Being a governor is a serious and important role. The statutory duties of the Council of Governors 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 meeting. Some documents can be lengthy. Governors are also expected to comment on documents and plans and ask any relevant questions at meetings. We provide training and support to help you do this.

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 AMM, Members' Focus Groups, other trust and public events and when visiting services.

About our Council of Governors

We have 42 governors covering the following constituencies:

Public constituencies

- Bexley (4 governors)
- Greenwich (4 governors)
- Bromley (4 governors)
- Rest of England (1 governor)

Service user/carers constituency

(divided into special interest groups)

- Adult community health (4 governors)
- Carers (1 governor)
- Children (1 governor)
- Learning disability (1 governor)
- Older people (2 governors)
- Working age adult mental health including the interests of those in forensic and prison services (4 governors)

Staff constituency

- 7 governors

Appointed governors

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



Katherine and Hannah, service user/carers governors



Service user/carer governors Baeti and Fola and Public governor Rob at a Members' Focus Group

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.

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. There is also a governor discussion forum.
- 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, our trust-wide patient experience group and short-term project boards.
- the opportunity to visit 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.

Still interested?

Please contact Sally Bryden, Trust Secretary and Associate Director of Corporate Affairs
tel: 01322 625034 or
email sally.bryden@oxleas.nhs.uk

For more information about becoming a governor, visit

www.nhsproviders.org/media/1093/1pre-induction-text-version.pdf

Council of Governors committees

Our Council of Governors has several sub-committees which many governors find a good way of putting their role into action.

- Nominations Committee – when vacancies arise on the Board of Directors, the Nominations Committee review the skills and experience they need for a non-executive director and oversee the recruitment process, recommending individuals for appointment.
- Membership Committee – this committee is governor led, supported by a non-executive director and our Head of Stakeholder Engagement. The committee helps us oversee the delivery of our Membership Strategy including ideas on how we can recruit new members, retain current members and develop events and activities for our members.
- Governors Standards Committee – this committee is chaired by the Senior Independent Director and attended by governors from our public, service user carer and staff constituencies. It considers issues arising around governor conduct.

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.