

# Become a Governor...



**And make a difference to the health services delivered in Berkshire**

## Can I be a public Governor

### You can stand for election to the Council of Governors

- If you are a member of our NHS Foundation Trust\*
- You are at least 16 years old

\* To become a member please complete the online form [secure.membra.co.uk/join/BerkshireHealthcare](https://secure.membra.co.uk/join/BerkshireHealthcare)

### Who is not eligible to be a public Governor?

There are a small number of people who can be a member but not a public Governor. These include people who:

- Have been convicted of an offence within the last five years leading to imprisonment of three months or more
- Have been declared bankrupt
- Within the last five years have been dismissed (other than through redundancy or ill health) from any paid employment with a health service body
- Are Directors or Non-Executive Directors of another NHS foundation trust or other health service body

### Do I need any special skills or experience?

Everyone has skills and experience to bring to the role of public Governor. What is essential is your willingness to apply them for the benefit of the public and patients of Berkshire.

Governors receive training for the role, both as to Governors' powers and duties and on the work of Berkshire Healthcare. Whilst unpaid, Governors can claim for authorised expenses incurred such as travel.

## The Council of Governors

Our Governors are local people who are either elected or appointed to sit on the Council of Governors to represent the interests of patients, the local community and Trust members



### Public Governors (elected)

Three representing each of the following constituencies:

- Bracknell
- Reading
- Slough
- West Berkshire
- Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead
- Wokingham

And one representing the Rest of England



### Staff Governors (elected)

Two representing Clinical Staff and Two representing Non-Clinical Staff



### Appointed Governors

Six appointed Governors represent the six Berkshire local authorities (Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham).

And one governor each represents the following organisations:

- Reading University
- The Red Cross
- Voluntary Sector

## What do Governors do?

As a Governor you will play a very important role in our Trust, acting as a link between our Board, our members and the wider public. You will help us make sure that the views of local people and communities are heard, giving them a greater say in our strategic direction, and how services are developed and delivered by us.

### As a Governor, you will have a number of legal duties and responsibilities including:

- Holding our Non-Executive Director to account for the performance of the Trust
- Reflecting the interests of members and the wider public and gathering their views about the services we provide
- Contributing to our overall future direction
- Working with the Board to produce our strategic vision and annual plan

### In addition, Governor's involvement and interaction includes:

- Attending meetings of the Council of Governors
- Attending and participating in the Annual General Meeting
- Joining the Chair for Governor drop-in virtual meetings / coffee mornings
- Participating in service visits

## What Governors don't do

- Governors are not responsible for the day to day management of the Trust
- Governors do not deal with individual complaints\*
- Governors do not have a veto over our Board decisions

\*For patient related queries please contact PALS (Patient Advice and Information Service) team, who will be happy to help.



Phone: 0118 904 3467



Email: PALS@berkshire.nhs.uk



## How to Contact us

For further information about the role of our Governors and details of forthcoming Governor elections, please contact: Julie Hill, Company Secretary at [Julie.Hill2@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:Julie.Hill2@berkshire.nhs.uk)



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