

Becoming an RD&E Governor – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who can be a Governor?

- Governors must be at least 16 years old and be a member of the Trust at the time of standing for election and live in the constituency you wish to represent.

Q: What does being a Governor involve?

- Hold Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Board of Directors
- Represent the interests of NHS Foundation Trust Members and the public; making the Trust publicly accountable
- Bring valuable perspectives and contributions to its activities as a collective body
- Watch our RD&E Governor film [here](#) for additional understanding of the role
(Note: The film was produced in 2016 and includes Governors and members of staff in post at the time. The content still remains relevant.)

Q: What's it like being a Governor?

You will...

- Gain a lot of knowledge around the NHS, the RD&E and its communities
- Be able to contribute directly/indirectly influence patient care
- Be able to represent the patient's voice

Q: How much time does it take?

- You'll need to attend around a dozen meetings a year, including the Trust's Council of Governors which meets quarterly.
- There could be more if you join one of the optional working groups set up to deal with specific issues, such as public engagement and patient experience. You may also be asked to attend key RD&E events such as the Annual Members Meeting and public open day.

Q: What support is provided?

- The Trust provides resources to enable Governors to carry out their role
- On-going updates on the NHS and what is happening at the RD&E
- Opportunity for discussion at training & development days
- Occasional opportunity to attend conferences on behalf of RD&E
- No remuneration but expenses for carers costs, travel costs and certain admin costs
- In return for your commitment, you will get a chance to learn more about how the RD&E works and a unique opportunity to represent your community at Board level
- We will support you to be a voice for your community and an ambassador for the RD&E

Q: If I want to be a Governor, what do I need to do next?

- Obtain nomination pack from election company UK Engage
- Complete nomination form
- A supporting statement (250 words) – will be reproduced exactly as submitted

- Submit a photograph
- Two supporters – become members as they sign the form, if not already. A Public Governor must live in same constituency, Staff Governors must be employed (i.e. not bank workers or volunteers etc)
- Must sign declaration