

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white and blue striped shirt, smiling and looking towards a man whose profile is visible on the left. The woman has her hand near her face. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting like a meeting or office. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the image, containing the main text.

# Your community. Your NHS.

Have your say and be the voice in local  
healthcare for your community.

## A guide to becoming a public Governor

An electronic version of this form is available at:

<https://hub.ukevotek.uk/dchs>

# Have a voice, become a public Governor

Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust is one of the largest providers of specialist community health services in the country, providing in the region of 4,000 patient contacts each day and serving a population of over one million people in Derbyshire and Derby.

We now employ around 4,200 staff, caring for patients in 11 community hospitals and more than 30 health centres, as well as in clinics, GP practices, schools, care homes and, increasingly, in people's own homes.

The Trust works with staff, members of the public, service users and carers to improve our services. To do this, we have a Council of Governors, which is made up of both elected and appointed Governors. We are seeking enthusiastic members with a passion for the healthcare services we provide to nominate themselves for election to the Council of Governors. We are looking for 9 new public Governors.



## So what is a Governor?

Governors play a really important role in the Trust. Governors give our members a voice by listening to their views to shape and improve the services we provide. Governors are elected to the role by members of DCHS for a period of up to three years. Although you don't get paid to be a Governor, you'll be able to claim money back for travelling costs and other reasonable expenses when attending meetings or events on behalf of the Trust.

Our 31 strong council includes public and staff Governors who are elected from the membership of our organisation, which currently stands at more than 14,000. They are all representatives of our local community and advise us how best to meet the needs of patients, families and carers. There are 18 public Governors, 10 staff Governors and three appointed Governors from our partner organisations.



## Quality at the heart of our care

At DCHS we put the quality of our patient care at the heart of everything we do. We achieve this by getting the basics right, acting with compassion and respect, by making a difference, by valuing and developing teamwork and by valuing everyone's contribution, including yours.





## As a public Governor among many opportunities you will be able to:

- Represent the population you serve
- Talk, listen to and represent our members and feed back to them
- Shape the way we engage with our members
- Meet with our Council of Governors at least six times a year
- Talk to our executive and non-executive directors
- Join other activities and events
- Hold the non-executive directors to account for the performance of the organisation
- Have a say in future appointments of non-executive directors
- Influence the way the Trust delivers services by contributing to our forward plan
- Receive the Trust's annual accounts, auditor's reports and annual review document
- Be consulted and contribute to the plans of the organisation, such as the Annual Plan.

We will help you to work out what support you need to fulfil your role as Governor and will provide training to enable you to do this.

## Guiding you through

If you think you would like to become a Governor, you will need to write a statement about yourself (250 words) that tells people why they should vote for you, which will make up part of your nomination form.

You might find it useful to ask yourself the following questions when writing your election statement:

- Have I been to meetings at the Trust before?
- Am I good at speaking for myself and other people?
- Do I like talking to other people and asking questions?

## Are we accessible to you?

This publication is available on request in other formats (for example, large print, easy read, Braille or audio version) and languages.

For free translation and/or other format please contact us on:



[DCHST.communications@nhs.net](mailto:DCHST.communications@nhs.net)



01246 515224

## We are now holding elections for 14 Governor positions, of which 9 are public Governor roles across the following constituencies:

- Amber Valley, Erewash & South Derbyshire
- Bolsover, Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire
- Derby City
- Derbyshire Dales & High Peak

## What should I do next?

If you would like to stand for election to become a Governor for Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust you need to complete a nomination form and send it to the returning officer between Wednesday 20 July 2022 and Friday 19 August 2022.

## Here are all the key dates you need to know:

- Nominations open on 20 July 2022
- Final date for nominations is 19 August 2022
- Ballot papers issued to members on 6 September 2022
- Close of election and final receipt of ballot papers 5pm on 29 September 2022
- Governor election results announced 30 September 2022.

## Contact us...

If you have any questions about nominations or elections please contact:

☎ 0345 209 3770

✉ [dchs@uk-engage.org](mailto:dchs@uk-engage.org)

🌐 <https://hub.ukevote.uk/dchs>

If you have any questions about the Governor role or any additional requirements you may have, please contact:

Megan Wheeldon, Governor and Membership Officer on:

☎ 07870 503 648 (9am - 4pm weekdays)

✉ [megan.wheeldon@nhs.net](mailto:megan.wheeldon@nhs.net)

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