
Your guide to getting more involved in the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Becoming a governor





Are you considering becoming a governor?

As an NHS Foundation Trust we will still be part of the NHS but will have much more freedom from central government to manage the way we are run. To make this possible we are accountable to local people through our members and the governors they elect.

Governors' formal roles include appointing the Trust's chairman and non-executive directors. It is their responsibility to represent members' interests, particularly in relation to the strategic direction of the Trust. Governors are there to challenge the Board of Directors and hold them to account for the Trust's performance. They do not undertake any operational management of any kind.

To be eligible to stand for election you should be aged 16 years or over, live in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk or Suffolk and be a registered

member of the Trust. Staff and volunteers of the Trust are eligible to vote as members subject to their contract of employment/terms. You do not need qualifications or specific experience, but you will need commitment, some spare time, and a genuine interest in working with the ambulance Trust to provide the best possible services for our patients.

The nomination and election process is anticipated to begin in early 2012 but in the meantime, we need you to consider whether you would like to put yourself forward for this valuable and rewarding role. To help you decide, we are holding a series of sessions entitled 'Becoming a governor' for you to attend to talk through what it means to be a governor of an NHS Foundation Trust. Details of the sessions are below; call 0800 028 3021 or email ftmembers@eastamb.nhs.uk to book a place.

Wednesday, November 2

5.30-6.30pm:

The Board Room, East of England Ambulance Service HQ, Building 1020, Cambourne Business Park, Cambridgeshire CB23 6DN

Thursday, November 3

2-3pm:

The Study Area, Mill Green Museum & Mill, Mill Green, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 5PD

Tuesday, November 8

5.30-6.30pm:

The Biffa Room, St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY

Thursday, November 17

12noon-1pm:

The Weybourne Room, Marriott Education & Conference Centre, Hellesdon Hospital, Drayton High Road, Norwich NR6 5BE

Thursday, November 17

5.30-6.30pm:

Moreton Hall Community Association & Club, Symonds Road, Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7EW

Tuesday, November 22

1.30-2.30pm:

The Walker Room, Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6YT

Frequently asked questions

What is a Members' Council?

Members elect representatives to serve on the Board of Governors and stand for election as a governor. The Members' Council comprises the elected public and staff members and appointed stakeholder governors. The Chairman of the Members' Council will be the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the organisation.

Members' Council includes 24 members, plus the chairman.

Elected governors

13 public members	
Bedfordshire	2
Cambridgeshire	2
Essex	3
Hertfordshire	2
Norfolk	2
Suffolk	2

Six staff members

2 Emergency Operations
1 Primary Care and Scheduled Transport Services
1 Support Services
2 Volunteers

Five stakeholder members

1 primary care trust (PCT) (lead commissioner)
1 local authority (Regional Assembly)
1 Age UK
1 MIND
1 Charitable or voluntary partnership organisation

What/who are the elected governors?

Governors are elected from the membership to represent the interests of our local population and staff on the Members' Council.


Do governors get paid?

No. Foundation Trusts are not allowed to pay governors a wage. However, governors can claim travelling and other expenses (if they are a carer, for example) incurred in the course of their duties. The Foundation Trust has an expenses policy which defines the process and procedures.

Will I receive any training?

Yes. If you are elected we will provide an induction and also identify what individual training and development needs you have.

We will also ask you about any skills and knowledge that you may already have. Please note, though, that all governors will be expected to take part in the induction programme.



Do I need any qualifications or previous experience?
No.

How long is a Governor's term of office?

A governor's term will be two or three years. Governors will be able to continue in the post, subject to re-election, up to a maximum of six years.

What do I need to do to become a governor?

You will need to be a registered member of the Foundation Trust.

How much time will I have to give as a Governor?

You will be required to attend all Members' Council meetings; there will be up to four of these a year. You will be asked to give a little extra time and take part in other meetings. There are some activities that require only one meeting, some require a few meetings, and some may require meeting quarterly throughout the year. On average, the commitment works out at approximately three hours per Governor per month.

There are restrictions to becoming a governor; full details of these are available at the information sessions and by visiting <http://www.eastamb.nhs.uk/foundation-trust.htm>



Contacting the East of England Ambulance Service

During the application for Foundation Trust status, you can give feedback by:

- emailing ftmembers@eastamb.nhs.uk
- writing to the FT Team, East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Hospital Approach, Broomfield, Essex CM1 7WS
- calling 0800 028 3021.

Please also visit the EEAST website which includes more news about the Trust - family and friends can also visit the site to join as a

member on-line.

You can read news and leave comments on the EEAST Facebook page (just type East of England Ambulance Service into the Search tool) - please 'Like' the site, as we're trying to build up as many followers as possible!

Please keep us up to date with any changes to your personal details (change of address etc.) so that you don't miss out on future communication from the Trust.

