

Frequently asked questions

How do I become a Governor?

To stand as a Governor, you must be a member of Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust. You can apply to be a member here: <http://ft.mhsc.nhs.uk/become-a-member.aspx>. All members will be advised of the timetable for elections and where, when and how to apply.

Am I eligible to become a Governor?

Any public member aged 16 years or above is eligible to stand for election as Governor. There are some exclusions, which are shown in Annex 6 of the Trust's Constitution (available on the website <http://ft.mhsc.nhs.uk/constitution.aspx> or from the Trust).

What do Governors do?

The Council of Governors make sure the Trust is meeting the conditions of their authorisation and the Board of Directors are doing their job properly. They are not involved with the running of the Trust but they do have a number of important legal duties.

How will the elections work?

Our elections will be run and monitored by an independent external election provider. Our election provider is Electoral Reform Services (ERS) to ensure that it is fair and independent.

What happens if only one person stands for election?

If only one person stands for election in a particular constituency, they will automatically become a Governor.

How often will the Council of Governors meet?

We propose to hold a minimum of three Council of Governor meetings a year plus the Annual General Meeting (AGM), although it is unlikely that there will be more than four meetings in a year. In addition to the full Council meetings there will also be some Governor sub-groups you may wish to be involved in.

How long are the terms of office?

Governors will be elected initially for a period of either three years or two years.

Will I be paid?

As a Governor is a voluntary position, no payment will be made. However, expenses may be available and subject to the Trust's policies in this area.

What will I do as a Governor apart from attending the Council meetings?

This is up to you. We have a number of Council of Governor Sub-Groups that will allow those Governors who want to contribute more to have this opportunity.

What if I am a member of another Trust as well?

People can be members of as many Foundation Trusts as they like and can also therefore stand for Governor positions at any Trust, however, you cannot be a Governor at more than one Trust at any given time.

What happens if I discover being a Governor is not for me?

Naturally, we hope this will not be the case and will try to support you to ensure we do not get to this position. However, if you do decide you want to step down, you just need to inform the Chair. Elections will then be held to ensure we always have appropriate representation.

Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact the FT office on 0161 277 1222 or on ftmembership@mhsc.nhs.uk. Alternatively visit our website at www.mhsc.nhs.uk/ft