

Governor Election Candidates – Advice on Writing Your Election Statements

NHS foundation trusts need committed and engaged governors to bring a public presence into their governance. Governors can also help trusts engage with the public. By expressing your interest you've shown your support for our Trust and the work that it does. Our advice on writing your election statement might help you become a governor and take an active part in our work.

What it means to be a Governor

It is a good idea to make sure you understand what elected governors can and cannot do in an NHS foundation trust. Our accompanying leaflet "Becoming a Governor" explains this. Please follow up the contact details there if you would like more detail or explanation.

Governors are volunteers and you can only be effective by giving the necessary time and commitment to their work, so be ready for this when you step forward.

How do you write a good election statement?

There are no hard or fast rules for writing election statements nor any definitive structure to which you are obliged to adhere, other than the word limits. Your job is to convince the voters that you will best reflect their ideals and wishes when you get to work. You will want to write about your skills and ability to represent people, but you should ensure that the values that you bring to your candidacy shine through your words. Your statement must be original and express your own qualities.

To get your message across succinctly, you may wish to break down your candidate statement into subsections which address the following key points:

- Why you want the job of Governor
- What skills and talents you feel you could bring to the role?
- Why the electorate should vote for you

All candidate statements will have a strictly applied word limit of 250 words, so it's important to keep your answers short and to the point. Sample election statements are attached.

The following candidate election statements have been amended to protect the identity of the candidates but are based on genuine statements by successful candidates.

Sample Candidate Election Statements

The following candidate elections statements have been amended to protect the identity of the candidates but are based on genuine statements.

Statement 1

I believe that the role of public governors is fundamental to ensuring that a foundation trust is properly governed and meets the needs of the population. As a public governor I would aim to represent the local community, including those less able to represent themselves.

Having lived in the local area for 35 years and with a NHS background, together with my family's experience of healthcare, including mental health care, I have the skills and attributes to become a public governor.

As a Trustee of a local charity that provides sports and physical activities for people with mental health problems, many of whom are patients of Berkshire Healthcare Trust, I have valuable insight for a governor's role.

Patient and public involvement is vital for healthcare and I believe that co-production can help to develop high quality effective services for patients.

I am passionate about quality improvement in order to make healthcare services the best they can be. Sustainability is a key priority for healthcare organisations and the Covid-19 pandemic has shown the potential for providing services in different ways with the rapid acceleration of the digital transformation of healthcare, bringing the opportunity to build on this to offer a range of options for care going forwards.

This is an exciting time to join Berkshire Healthcare Trust with the focus on system wide working and the transformation of community mental health services and I am keen to play a part for the benefit of the local population.

Statement 2

Taking early retirement, my planning skills and eye for detail from 27 years in scientific research and 5 in logistics support have proved useful in helping analyse processes and working procedures.

Inspiration to originally stand for Governor came from attending a Trust Mental Health Service User and Carer Forum as an ex-service user.

Since being in the role I have had the opportunity to visit the facilities at both the Community Mental Health Team and St Marks Hospital and talk with both staff and service users about their experiences.

Please give me the opportunity to continue to help support and improve local services.

Statement 3

As a Governor, I hope to be able to act as a voice for both patients and their carers.

I am both a long term sufferer of, and carer for someone with, mental health and other long-term conditions. I have lived in the area for ten years and have been very impressed with the standard of NHS care all round and in particular from Berkshire Healthcare in the community. I have seen first hand how the Trust successfully delivers a wide range of serviced despite the prevailing NHS climate.

It would be a privilege to volunteer my time and experience to represent patients and other local residents in Berkshire Healthcare by becoming a Governor. In particular it is my view that the Berkshire Healthcare Board of Directors wide ranging expertise should be counter balanced with the opinions of the service users, i.e individuals and communities. The Board of Governors are just this, a voice for the service users, relaying the concerns and other feedback to the Trust.

It is important for everyone concerned that the best value for money is achieved by the Governors by holding the Board of Directors and the Trust as a whole accountable. In particular I am keen to ensure that the Trust successfully deals with the challenges and conflicting priorities it faces today, and into the future, for the challenges of Brexit and all that might entail, whilst continuing to deliver a high standard of care.