

## Become a member

Membership is free and open to anyone over the age of 12.

For more information, and to become a member, visit the 'Get Involved' section on our website, or scan the QR code.



[lead.me/bhmember](https://lead.me/bhmember)



**Berkshire Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Become a Governor


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You can make a difference to health services delivered in Berkshire



 [www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk](https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)

## What do Governors do?

Governors act as a link between our Board, our members, and the wider public. They help us make sure that the views of local people and communities are heard, giving them a greater say in our strategic direction, and how services are developed and delivered by our Trust.

Governors have a number of legal duties and responsibilities, such as:

- Holding our Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Trust
- Reflecting the interests of members and the wider public and gathering their views about our services
- Contributing to our overall future direction
- Working with the Board to produce our strategic vision and annual plan

### Governors do not:

- Have responsibility for day-to-day management
- Deal with individual complaints
- Have a veto over Board decisions

In addition, Governors attend meetings of the Council of Governors, participate in the Annual General Meeting, join the Chair for Governor virtual drop-in meetings, and visit services.

## The Council of Governors

Our Governors are local people who are either elected or appointed to represent the interests of patients, the local community, and our staff.

There are 32 Governor positions:

- 19 elected Public Governors – three for each of the six Berkshire local authorities\* and one representing the rest of England
- Four elected Staff Governors – two representing clinical staff and two representing non-clinical staff
- 13 Appointed Governors from local organisations, such as schools, universities, local authorities\*, and the charity sector

\*The six local authorities are Bracknell Forest, Reading, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough, West Berkshire, and Wokingham.

## Can I be a Public Governor?

You can stand for election if you are:

- At least 16 years old
- A member of our NHS Foundation Trust (see back page)

You **cannot** be a Governor if you:

- Have been convicted within the last five years of an offence leading to imprisonment of three months or more
- Have been declared bankrupt
- Have been dismissed (other than through redundancy or ill health) within the last five years
- Are a Director or Non-Executive Director of another NHS foundation trust or other health service body



Governors are **unpaid**, but can claim for authorised expenses incurred, such as travel costs.

## Do I need any special skills or experience?

Everyone has skills and experience to bring to the role of Public Governor. Your willingness to apply them for the benefit of the public and patients of Berkshire is what's essential.

Governors receive training for the role, both as to Governors' powers and duties and on the work of Berkshire Healthcare.

## Find out more

For further information about the role of our Governors and details of forthcoming Governor elections, visit our website:

 [berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/become-a-governor](https://berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/become-a-governor)