

Who we are

At Great Ormond Street Hospital, our purpose is to care for children and young people with complex health needs so they can fulfil their potential. Together with our research partner, the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, we host the UK's only paediatric National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre (BRC).

Being a Foundation Trust gives us the ability to take our own decisions so we can respond directly to the needs of those using our services. Our core purpose is to put the child first and always. We are an internationally renowned centre for treating sick children, with the widest range of children's specialists in the UK.

What is the role of a Governor?

The role of the Council of Governors is an important one. Our Governors help ensure the views of the wider hospital community are considered by the GOSH Trust Board.

We see the Council as our critical friend and guardian of our values. Collectively and individually its role is vital as it acts as a link to the hospital community by:

- involving foundation trust members directly in our long term vision and planning
- overseeing membership involvement, recruitment and engagement.

The Council also has specific powers, holding the Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Trust Board. Its duties include:

- appointing and setting the pay and terms and conditions of appointment of the Trust Chair and Non-Executive Directors
- ratifying the appointment of the Chief Executive
- appointing the auditors and receiving the annual report and accounts.

The minimum involvement expected of our Governors is to attend four formal Council meetings a year. Governors are supported to receive induction training and attendance at development sessions is encouraged.

Who can be a Governor?

To stand for election to the Council of Governors, you need to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- you must be a member of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (as you have received this letter, it means you are already a member)
- you must be at least 16 years of age
- public, patient and carer Governors must live in the constituency in which they wish to stand
- candidates for a staff Governor seat must work for the Trust on a permanent contract or on a fixed term contract of 12 months or more

Please see the **Eligibility Criteria Information Sheet** to check if you are eligible to stand for election.

I'd like to become a Governor. What do I need to do?

Ensure you fulfil all the criteria necessary to be a Governor. The next thing to do is fill out a nomination form. These will be available from Civica Election Services and there are 4 ways you can get a copy of the form:

1. Fill out the form online here: www.cesvotes.com/GOSHElection
2. Call 0208 889 9203 and the person who answers the phone will send you one. If you need any help completing your form, please ask for Ciara Hutchinson.
3. Email your full name and address to ftnominationenquiries@cesvotes.com and someone will send you one.
4. Send a letter with your full name and address to the Independent Scrutineer, Civica Election Services, The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW and someone will send you one.