

Members' Council Objectives 2021 – 2023
Approved by Members' Council on 30 October 2020

The Members' Council and the Governors will strive to represent the views and opinions of the communities that they serve and help South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) to achieve the Vision, Mission and Values and in doing so help improve the health and well-being of the people that SWYPFT serves.

1. Involvement

The Members' Council will work with the Communication, Equality and Engagement teams to publicise the Trust throughout the population of the area they represent and work to increase the membership of the Trust and increase enthusiastic engagement at all levels.

Specifically:

- To promote the voice of service users, carers, families, friends, staff and Freedom to Speak Up Guardians to ensure that the Trust is fully aware of how service delivery impacts on their daily lives, improving well-being and reducing health inequalities.
- Hold area Governor meetings every six weeks between Members' Council meetings to help Governors work together and share information about the diverse communities they serve.
- Encourage active Governor engagement in key community groups in their area in order to understand the issues and challenges faced by their communities and how Trust's services are being delivered to meet those needs.
- Together with the Communication, Equality and Engagement teams help raise awareness of Trust's activities throughout the areas that it serves by being involved in community groups and public events hosted by the Trust.

2. Quality

Quality is at the heart of delivering an outstanding service to the Trust's service users, carers, families, friends, other partners and stakeholders. The Members' Council will endeavour to ensure continuous improvement throughout the Trust by providing feedback and constructive challenge from the communities that they serve.

Specifically:

- Increase Governor opportunities to see the Trust at work through planned visits to services, Quality Improvement and Business Delivery Unit (BDU) visits in order to gain a wider perspective, understanding and knowledge of the Trust's services and that they are appraised of actions and follow up.
- Have access to patient experience intelligence and insight and to understand corrective action and follow up.
- Ensure full Members' Council representation on and appoint a Governor as co-chair of the Members' Council Quality Group to provide the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the Quality Performance Report.

3. Effectiveness

The Members' Council has a legal requirement to support the work of SWYPFT. It can only fulfil this role if the Governors are well trained, informed, committed and active within the Trust and the wider communities that they represent.

Specifically:

- Carry out all statutory duties as required by the SWYPFT Constitution and Monitor (now NHS Improvement). Please see **Appendix 1**.
- To strive to ensure the Members' Council is fully inclusive and diverse and representative of the community it serves.
- Members' Council representatives to meet Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) to understand their roles within the Trust and hold the NEDs to account both individually and collectively for the performance of the Trust Board.
- To ensure that Members' Council representatives are always in attendance at Trust Board meetings which are held in public to further understand the key issues faced by the Trust. Those in attendance to report back key points to the Members' Council.
- To redevelop and implement the Governor training programme in light of the Members' Council Objectives to give Governors "the tools to do the job". Ensure that the Governor Induction pack is kept updated and relevant.
- Formalise the "Buddying" system for new Governors.

NB. Achievement of the above objectives and timings may well be affected adversely by the Covid-19 pandemic especially Governors accessing key community groups. During this time Governors should use connections to promote national guidance and advise relating infection prevention and control. They should also promote awareness of the options service users have to engage with services and promote the fact that services continue to be available for access.

Appendix 1

Governors' roles, responsibilities and powers under the legislation

	Statutory roles and responsibilities of the council of governors	Additional powers
2006 Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appoint and, if appropriate, remove the chair; ✓ Appoint and, if appropriate, remove the other non-executive directors; ✓ Decide the remuneration and allowances and other terms and conditions of office of the chair and the other non-executive directors; ✓ Approve (or not) any new appointment of a chief executive; ✓ Appoint and, if appropriate, remove the NHS foundation trust's auditor; and ✓ Receive the NHS foundation trust's annual accounts, any report of the auditor on them, and the annual report at a general meeting of the council of governors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In preparing the NHS foundation trust's forward plan, the board of directors must have regard to the views of the council of governors.
Amendments to the 2006 Act made by the 2012 Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold the non-executive directors, individually and collectively, to account for the performance of the board of directors (see Chapter 4).⁴ • Represent the interests of the members of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council of governors may require one or more of the directors to attend a governors' meeting to obtain

⁴This makes explicit a duty to hold the board to account which was already a requirement of Monitor's *Code of Governance*. The subtle difference is that in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 governors are specifically tasked with holding the non-executive directors, individually and collectively, to account for the performance of the board of directors but it should be remembered that the board operates as a unitary board.

	<p>trust as a whole and the interests of the public (see Chapter 4);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve “significant transactions” (see Chapter 10);• Approve an application by the trust to enter into a merger, acquisition, separation or dissolution (See Chapter 10);• Decide whether the trust’s non-NHS work would significantly interfere with its principal purpose, which is to provide goods and services for the health service in England, or performing its other functions (see Chapter 11); ⁵ and• Approve amendments to the trust’s constitution. ⁶	<p>information about performance of the trust’s functions or the directors’ performance of their duties, and to help the council of governors to decide whether to propose a vote on the trust’s or directors’ performance (see Chapter 4).</p>
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⁵ Any proposal by the directors to increase the proportion of total income earned from non-NHS work by five percentage points or more requires agreement by more than half of the members of the council of governors of the trust voting.

⁶ Amendments to the trust's constitution must be approved by the council of governors. Approval means more than half of the governors voting agree with the amendments. Amendments must also be approved by more than half of the members of the board of directors voting.

