

Becoming a Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Governor – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who can be a Governor?

- Governors must be at least 16 years old and be a member of the Trust at the time of standing for election and live/work in the constituency you wish to represent.
- A Public Governor must live in same constituency in which they are putting themselves forward for election
- Staff Governors must be employed (i.e. not bank workers or volunteers etc)

Q: What does being a Governor involve?

- Holding Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Board of Directors
- Representing the interests of NHS Foundation Trust Members and the public; making the Trust publicly accountable
- Bringing valuable perspectives and contributions to its activities as a collective body

Q: What's it like being a Governor?

You will...

- Gain a lot of knowledge about the NHS, the Royal Devon and its communities
- Be able to directly/indirectly influence patient care
- Be able to represent the patient's voice at Board level

Q: How much time does it take?

- You'll need to attend around a dozen meetings a year, including the Trust's Council of Governors, which meets quarterly.
- There could be more if you join one of the optional working groups set up to deal with specific issues, such as public engagement or patient safety and quality.
- You may also be asked to attend key Royal Devon events such as the Annual Members Meeting.

Q: What support is provided?

- Newly elected Governors take part in an induction programme
- The Trust provides on-going updates on the NHS and what is happening at the Royal Devon
- Opportunity for training & development days
- Occasional opportunity to attend conferences on behalf of the Royal Devon
- This is an unpaid voluntary role so there is no remuneration, but expenses for carers costs, travel costs and certain admin costs are available

Q Where do I find more information about the Governor role?

- [Prospective Governors booklet: 2022 Edition](#)
- [Video: the role of a Governor](#)

(Note: The video was produced before the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust integrated with Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust to become the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, so there are references to the former Trust. The video was produced in 2016 and includes Governors and members of staff in post at the time. The content remains useful for prospective Governors of the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust).

Q: If I want to be a Governor, what do I need to do next?

- Obtain a nomination pack from our election services provider, CIVICA:

Online: www.cesvotes.com/RDE2022

Telephone: 0208 889 9203

Email: ftnominationenquiries@cesvotes.com

Text: Text 2FT RDE and your name and address to 88802

Post:

Civica Election Services
The Election Centre
33 Clarendon Road
London
N8 0NW

- Complete nomination form
- Write a supporting statement (250 words) – this will be reproduced exactly as submitted
- Submit a photograph

Each candidate must have two supporters. Supporters must be a member of the same constituency to which the candidate belongs, and be a member by 18 July. Any supporters who are not members can become a member at the same time as signing the nomination form.

- Sign declaration – this is very important