

Well, the time has come for a change.

At the end of September I will have completed nine years as a governor for the Trust and must finish in the role. I retired as Head of Midwifery/Deputy Chief Nurse in 2011 and was voted by members as a governor in 2012. I live in Haxby, so I am one of the York team of governors. My governor colleagues elected me as lead governor when our previous lead governor left York.



It has been a really interesting time with very sadly the last 12 months or so being driven by the pandemic. Many things had to change out of necessity and face to face discussions were one of them. I have missed the opportunity to meet colleagues and although this has been replaced by the use of WebEx, it isn't the same. As I find the use of a computer difficult I haven't found this easy as a substitute.

The governors come from many backgrounds but I think my experience in the health service helped me in the role. It meant that I could understand the language used and some of the issues being raised. Despite the money position, the patient has always come first so your views are really important. Get involved as much or as little as you want, encourage family and friends to become members and have a say in the developments in the trust.

Governors have found it difficult to get feedback from members over the years and have tried a number of ways to do this. The Assistant to the Foundation Trust Secretary organises sessions for members on topics that members have highlighted. If you book a place please do come. These sessions are very informative and all members are very welcome. One of the issues for members is the election of governors. This is happening as we speak so get involved if you are a member and have your say for your constituency.

During the pandemic staff have worked tirelessly to ensure patients are well cared for. The governors acknowledge this and add our thanks to all those involved in the Trust. It has been a really tremendous effort on everyone's behalf during an extremely difficult time.

One of the main roles of a governor includes holding the non-executive directors (NEDs) to account. I am pleased to say that as governors we have ready access to the NEDs, including the Trust executives and the Chair. We have been able to see how they work together, how the NEDs challenge the executives and seek assurance on how issues are addressed, but most importantly how they work closely together to ensure the Trust meets the needs of the community they serve, despite all the challenges being faced.

Finally can I wish my successor well, thank everyone for their support and help over the years. It is difficult to mention everyone by name but my thanks goes to everyone who has assisted me over the years and hope all goes well for individuals and the Trust in the future.

Margaret Jackson  
Lead Governor