



Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust is holding an election for five Governor posts between 13 November 2014 – 13 January 2015.

The posts that are vacant are as follows:

- Non-Medical Clinical Staff – 1 post
- Birmingham Public Governor – 1 post
- Carer Governor – 2 posts
- Birmingham Service User Governor – 1 post

The successful candidates will join the **Council of Governors meeting** on **Thursday, 15 January 2015** meeting and will play an important part in the life of the Trust.

We want to make sure that everyone who is interested in standing for election as a Governor has all the support they need.

Timetable for prospective governors

The notice of election and ultimately the results will be provided to all registered members, and on the Trust's website and intranet for staff members:

Action	Date
Notice of election - you are invited to stand for election and request a nomination pack as of this date.	13 November 2014
All nomination forms (including personal statement, declaration of eligibility, and photograph) must be returned by potential governors to Democracy Counts Ltd by 4pm.	1 December 2014
Any candidate wishing to withdraw their nomination must do so by in writing by 5pm on this date.	4 December 2014
Voting papers will be sent out to qualifying voting members.	18 December 2014
Voting papers must be returned to Democracy Counts by 4pm on this date.	13 January 2015

For any enquiries on the role of Governors, please contact Caroline Burgin, Board Support Officer on 0121 301 1096, or by emailing caroline.burgin@bsmhft.nhs.uk

The role of Governor:

- Governors appoint the Chair and Non-Executive Directors and set remuneration for them.
- Governors approve the appointment of the Chief Executive.
- Governors approve the appointment of the external auditor.
- Governors appraise the Chair and Non-Executive Directors.
- Governors represent the interests of the Trust membership.
- Governors act as an advisor to the Trust.
- Governors hold the Board Directors to account.
- They provide a link to the community that the Trust serves.
- Governors are a guardian, ensuring that the Trust operates in a way that fits in with its purpose and authorisation.
- Governors act as ambassadors for the Trust and are champions to tackle the stigma associated with mental health illness.

What Governors cannot do:

- The Council of Governors cannot over-rule decisions made by the Board of Directors.
- The Council of Governors will not be involved in the day-to-day running of the Trust.
- The Council will not inspect the Trust's services.
- Governors are not there to pursue personal political agendas or raise complaints on behalf of individuals.
- Governors should not represent the interests of single pressure group. They are required to represent a broad range of interests in their constituency.
- Being a Governor is not a route to preferential treatment as a patient.
- Becoming a Governor is not an offer of paid employment or an opportunity to work as a volunteer in the Trust.

