



Foundation Trust
Governors' Association

Debate | Exchange | Learn

Foundation Trusts, Democracy and Public Ownership

Sharon Carr-Brown
National Chair

The Foundation Trust Governors' Association



A bit about us...

- Established in 2007, entirely independent but hosted by the King's Fund. We are here to:
 - support governors in their role
 - provide development and training
 - offer critical information
 - offer country-wide networking
 - enable governors to perform their role as effectively as possible



Governors' Statutory Responsibilities

- Appoint and if appropriate, remove, the Chair
- Appoint and if appropriate, remove, the NEDs
- Determine remuneration and allowances for Chair and NEDs
- Approve appointment of Chief Executive
- Appoint and if appropriate, remove, auditors
- Receive accounts and annual report
- Trusts must 'have regard to' the views of councils of governors when devising their forward plans



Governors are there to:

1. Hold the Board of Directors to account

This helps

achieve this

2. Ensure engagement with the membership

This helps

achieve this

3. Enact defined statutory responsibilities

All three involve member representation



Challenges for Governors

- Diverse experience and ability of governors
- Getting to grips with the NHS and your FT
- Are we critical friends or ambassadors?
- Oversight or involvement - where's the line?
- Can the Chair effectively chair 2 Boards?
- Finding acceptance within the wider NHS
- Finding acceptance in communities and the workplace



Is this what should have happened?

"..one of the key things where I think we have a problem is that at local level there is still not much democratic accountability. PCTs that increasingly will be responsible for spending vast sums of money don't have any direct democratic accountability. If people in their local area don't like what their PCT is doing, it is quite difficult for them to make their voices heard..."

Bradshaw, 2007

"..we will also explore the ways of improving the legitimacy and



Democracy and Accountability

- One in five governor elections were uncontested in 2008-09, rising to 31% of those for staff governors.
- There were 12,742 registered voters on average at each of the 115 foundation trusts. This is expected to rise by 12%, to 14,267 in 2009-10.
- On average, 27% of public members turned out to vote, compared with 26% of patients and 19% of staff.



Democracy and Accountability

	Turnout (%)	% of elections at aspirant FTs	% of uncontested elections	No. of Trusts holding elections
2004	48	99.2	21	31
2005	39	50	34	26
2006	37	68	42	54
2007	34	59.8	43	76
2008	29	44.9	40	92
2009	27	26.8	38	64

Source: Membership Engagement Services/HSJ



Public Ownership

Accountability myth or just activist dependant?

- Not everyone will become a member
- Only some of those will engage
- An 'activist class' emerges which may be atypical of the community
- 30+ governors are elected
- Only half will truly participate
- What level of 'ownership' does that leave us with ... 0.0??%?

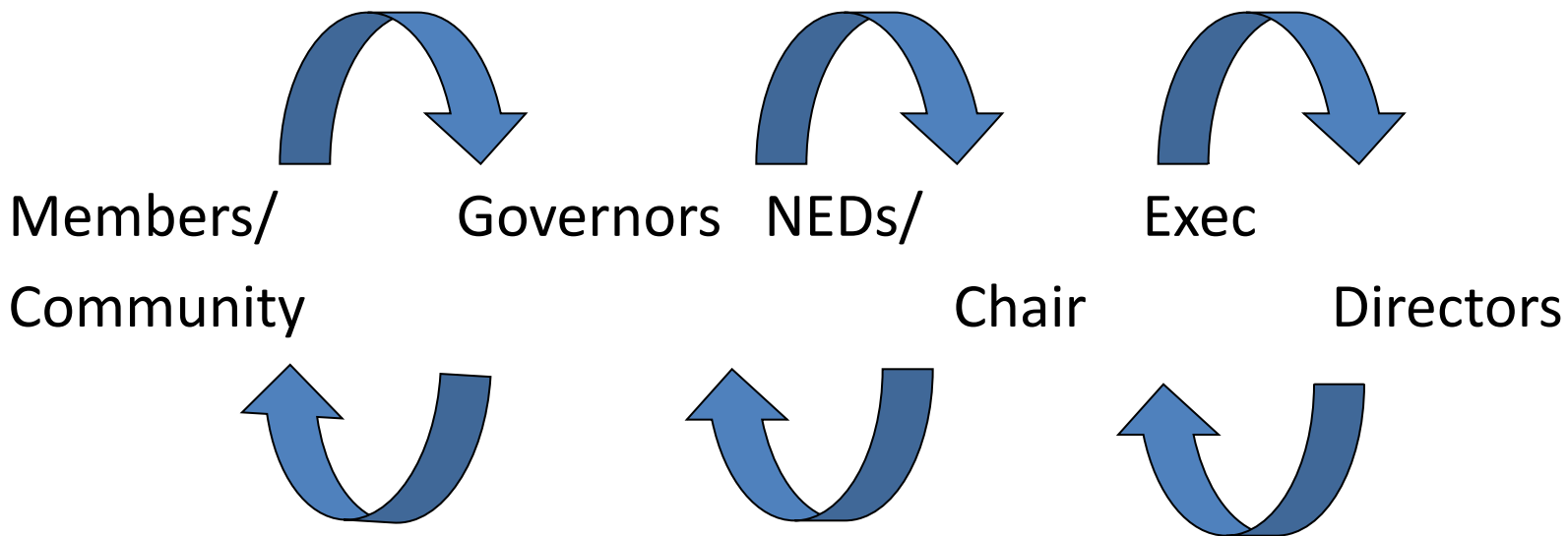


Foundation Trust
Governors' Association

Debate | Exchange | Learn

Public Ownership

Each elects/appoints the next



Each answers to the previous



Foundation Trust
Governors' Association

Debate | Exchange | Learn

Democracy and Accountability in action

Governors are making a difference in 6 key areas:

1. Involvement in quality improvement
2. Reconfiguring services/strategy
3. Appointing Chairs and NEDs
4. Recruiting and communicating with members
5. Participation in Trust committees
6. Building external relationships



1. Involvement in quality improvement
 - Quality committees
 - PEAT visits
 - Real-time patient feedback
 - Patient/user focus groups
 - Scrutinising Trust Board quality indicators
 - CQC submission



2. Reconfiguring services/strategy

- Strategic planning/Board to Board meetings
- Agreeing Trust priorities – quality, finance
- Clinical quality issues – driving changes
- Consultation with members/public
- Partnership working with key stakeholders - PCTs, community groups, implementing national strategies



4. Recruiting and Communicating with Members

- Considered most important part of role
- Making the hospital part of the community
- Innovative ways of reaching people
- Listening/learning/feeding in and back
- Develops Trust's and Governors' skills
- Fundamental shifts in Trusts' approach