NHS Providers Governor Advisory Committee: Election rules for governor members

Terms of office and frequency of elections
A term of office will be a maximum of 3 years. A governor member will be eligible to be re-nominated for election at the end of their first term of office, but may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

Scheduled elections will be once every three years and will take place in sufficient time to allow elected members to take office on the first GAC meeting of the relevant financial year (April-March).

Vacancies
Where a seat falls vacant between elections, it will be filled by the unelected, available candidate with the next highest number of votes at the last election. Where there is an equality of votes, the NHS Providers’ returning officer will draw lots to determine the elected person. Where there are no unelected candidates available and there is more than 6 months until the next scheduled election, a by-election will be held. By-elections will operate by the same rules as scheduled elections.

Conduct of elections
NHS Providers will commission an election provider to carry out the election and act as the returning officer.

Nominations
Nominations will be sought in the form decided by the organisation for each of the following eight categories: an acute trust representative, a mental health trust representative, a community trust representative, an ambulance trust representative, a public governor representative, a staff governor representative, a stakeholder governor representative and a patient/carer/service user representative. Where a nominating trust provides integrated services the trust may choose to which category they nominate. Nominations will only be accepted from councils of governors, which may nominate only one of their number for election. One person cannot be nominated for more than one category across both sector and governor type categories. Councils may not nominate a governor from another foundation trust. The organisation will allow sufficient time between request for nominations and their close for the views of councils on nominations to be sought. Where more than eight candidates are nominated an election will be held.

Electorate
The electorate for GPB elections is the council of governors of each foundation trust that is an NHS Providers member. Councils of governors may nominate any one of their number, the chair, or an employee to cast a vote on its behalf.
**Election address**
An election address for each candidate of no more than 250 words will be distributed with ballot papers. The determination of the returning officer as to the suitability of the wording of an election address will be final.

**The ballot**
The ballot will be undertaken by the election provider.

**Elected candidates**
The acute, mental health, community, ambulance, public governor, staff governor, stakeholder governor and patient/carer/service user nominated candidates with the highest number of valid votes cast will be elected through a single transferable vote system. If there are no nominations from a category the seat will be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes from whatever category. The returning officer will make arrangements for the count and for the count to be properly checked. The determination of the returning officer on the validity of votes cast will be final.

NHS Providers
9th March 2017