



Derbyshire Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

# A Partnership Approach To Working with Governors

Selina Ullah

Trust Chair

Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



DHCFT



@derbyshcft

[www.derbyshirehealthcareft.nhs.uk](http://www.derbyshirehealthcareft.nhs.uk)



Making a  
**positive**  
difference

# Derbyshire Healthcare

- Provider of: Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Autism and universal Childrens' Services and Addiction Services
- Serving a population of 1.1 million people with diverse needs, 71 languages spoken
- Working from 66 sites
- With liaison services embedded in the two acute trusts
- Membership 8,629
- 3000 colleagues
- Major capital transform programme
- Organisation that lives its values – Respect, People First, Honesty, Do your best.

# Working with our Governors

- Induction
- Support provided to governors
- Open door policy
- Practical tools/holding to account questions/engagement log
- Monthly Lead Governor meetings
- Informal governor coffee and chat both face to face and online
- Service visits with NEDs and Execs
- Joint development sessions
- Written briefings and follow ups on hot issues including confidential briefings
- Invitation to events
- Governor Connect
- Annual Members Meeting planning.

# Governor Activity During 2023/24

- Approved the reappointment of a Non-Executive Director for a further 12-month term
- Approved the extension of the Trust's external audit contract
- Had the opportunity to discuss the Trust's annual plan submission
- Participated in the Well Led Review
- Participated in the appraisal process for the Trust Chair and NEDs
- Reviewed and updated the Governors Membership Engagement Action Plan
- Established a Governor Task and Finish Group focusing on plans for the Annual Members Meeting
- Received the report from the external auditors on the Annual Report and Accounts
- Received reports from the Governance Committee and Nominations and Remuneration Committee
- Received the Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
- Received an update on the Well Led Review report
- Received an update on the Trust Strategy development
- Received Deep Dive reports from the NEDs – including on finance, staff retention, waiting lists and staff survey results.

# What Works

Not rubber stamping, we're given opportunity to ask questions, probe, seen as integral part of the governance structure.

See CoG as a layer of governance that has a purpose.

Engagement and relationships between NEDs and Governors is strong. There is a willingness to explain terms and concepts and follow up after meetings.

Broad range of skills, experience, vibrancy that provokes discussion.

Good attendance of NEDs and Execs at Governor events.