



## **Rough Guide to Accountable/Integrated Care**

### **NHS Foundation Trust Elected Governors & Members**

This download is about how to make sure NHS Foundation Trusts' Elected Governors protect our hospitals as best they can from the NHS-cuts-and-privatising Accountable Care Models (now rebranded Integrated Care Systems by NHS England).

### **How hospital trusts are involved in Sustainability and Transformation Plans/ Accountable/Integrated Care Systems**

The government's failure to fund the NHS properly and to carry out adequate workforce planning are the root causes of decisions to cut, merge, downgrade and close many hospital services.

At the end of 2015, NHS and social care organisations - including hospitals Trusts - were told by NHS England to prepare for upwards of a £22bn funding shortfall by 2020/1, by preparing cuts-and-privatisation-driven Sustainability and Transformation Plans (now Partnerships and Integrated Care Systems).

This was carried out in a secretive manner, without proper scrutiny or public consultation. Hospital Trusts have been affected and have grouped into Associations of Acute Trusts which meet in private and publish no minutes.

NHS Providers themselves wanted greater clarity about what on earth was going on.

<https://nhsproviders.org/media/3561/supporting-providers-stps-and-accountable-care.pdf>

### **Elected Governors: direct representatives of local communities**

The role of Elected Governors is:

“to ensure that people from the communities served by the trusts can take part in governing them. They are the direct representatives of local communities.”

( [NHS Improvement: Governors' Guide](#) )

### **But it's unclear whether:**

- Elected Governors are aware of their statutory roles and responsibilities.
- Whether and how they have exercised them during the last few years when Sustainability and Transformation Plans/Partnerships and now Accountable Care Organisations/Systems have been in development.

An Elected Governor told us:

*"I think we are simply a tick box exercise. I don't feel we have any real influence and I've never felt I've made a difference to a Trust decision of any significance. The membership elect the councillors by email ballot but we have no contact with them so have no route to be accountable to them."*

## **How NHS Foundation Trust members and the public can hold your Elected Governors to account**

If you're a member of the public and/or member of your local NHS hospital Foundation Trust hospital, please make sure your Elected Governors carry out their statutory duties.

If you don't know whether your hospital's an NHS Foundation Trust, here's a [list](#).

You can then find your Elected Governors by searching online for your NHS Foundation Trust's name + Elected Governors. The webpage probably won't have their contact details, but you can ask the NHS Foundation Trust Secretary to forward them your email.

## **Elected Governors have considerable statutory powers and need to use them**

So if you're an Elected Governor of an NHS Foundation Trust, please contact your members and local NHS Protection campaign group and ask them for their views on the Trust's:

- Forward Plan
- Performance of the Board of Directors
- Significant transactions
- Any non-NHS work
- The trust's or directors' performance

That's what Elected Governors' statutory duties and powers cover. ([NHS Improvement: Governors' Guide](#))

## **Become an NHS Foundation Trust Member and vote for NHS Protectors as Elected Governors**

By becoming a member of your Local NHS Foundation Trust, or by simply contacting your Elected Governors, you will be able to hold them to account for carrying out their statutory responsibilities.

At the moment, this really isn't happening. As a member of your Local NHS Foundation Trust, you can [stand for election](#) as an Elected Governor, or vote for other Candidates whose views on your NHS Foundation Trust Hospital you support.