

## *Dos and Don'ts of governors*

### **WHAT DO THEY DO?**

To fulfil this role, governors undertake the following:

- Represent the constituency they are elected or appointed to serve
- Comply with the Code of Conduct
- Assist the Trust with the recruitment and retention of members and engagement with the wider community
- Approve the appointment of the chief executive
- Appoint, remove and decide the terms of office, remuneration and allowances for the chair and non-executive directors
- Contribute to the evaluation of the chair and non-executive directors
- Appoint or remove the Trust's external auditors
- Provide a view to the Trust on the annual report and annual plan
- Review the annual accounts, annual report and auditors' report at a general meeting
- Be consulted by the Board of Directors on the development of future plans and strategy for the Trust
- Hold the Board of Directors to account for the performance of the Trust
- Participate in training, particularly that defined as mandatory
- Be available to attend a minimum number of meetings and membership and engagement activities per year. The majority of meetings are currently held during the
- Be available to participate from time-to-time in committees, forums and working groups, which make suggestions and recommendations to the Trust.

### **WHAT THEY CAN'T DO**

- They **don't** deal with patients' complaints – although they can tell people about the Trust's complaint system
- **Cannot** veto or over-rule decisions made by the Board of Directors
- Although the term "Governor" sounds like "school governor" or even "prison governor", Foundation Trust Governors **don't** actually get involved in the day-to-day running of the Trust's services, setting budgets, staff pay or other operational matters
- Do **not** inspect the Trust's services. This task is carried out by the Care Quality Commission and the Local Involvement Network
- They **don't** act as advocates for individual patients – although they can point people in the direction of advocacy organisations
- They **don't** get involved with detail of how services are run. This is the role of the Board of Directors. They do, however, have an influence on services via communicating the views of the local communities