



November membership update



“Hello, my name is Mary Whittington and I've been a governor since June 2017. As an architect, I spent much of my career working with NHS Trusts around England, designing new healthcare facilities and advising them on how to make best use of their existing estate. After retiring I wanted to continue to apply this knowledge and experience, so decided to put myself forward for election.

I've tried to attend as many of the governor Quality, Strategy and Constitution Focus Group meetings as I can over the past 18 months, as well as the Board meetings in public and meetings with the Chair and non-executives, to understand the range of issues and challenges faced by the Trust and, of course, the successes. We regularly receive presentations from members of the Trust Senior Management Team, which are extremely informative and are a great help to us in our role as governors.

My professional background means that I'm particularly interested in the Strategy Focus Group, where I have been able to contribute to discussions about the proposed new transport hub. I'm looking forward to hearing more about these plans as they develop and the feedback on the responses to the public consultation.

I was fortunate to be selected to represent the Governors in the IDEA Group, which works with the Trust's Arts Programme Director, Dr Anna Farthing, on the development of the arts strategy for the hospitals. This is a really exciting opportunity to improve the experience of those using our hospitals – patients, visitors and staff – through the use of different forms of art. Hopefully you will have seen some of the exhibitions and activities that have already taken place in our hospitals and around the city. Each month has a theme – November's theme has been 'Images' and as part of this everyone has been encouraged to take a fresh look at their surroundings and commit to undertaking a few small actions to improve the appearance and atmosphere of their working environment. December's theme will be 'Sound', which will include all kinds of music, podcasts and silent reflection. Look out for the events and exhibitions when you're next in the hospitals.

Membership news

Changes to Foundation Trust membership

At the last Council of Governors meeting on 31 October, governors voted through changes to the way that our Foundation Trust membership is structured. This was the result of a year-long review of our membership, 10 years on from becoming an NHS Foundation Trust. The aim was to make it easier for members to understand which governors represent you, and to make governor representation more meaningful. The main change agreed was to merge the public and patient membership constituencies. The only difference that members will see is that if you were a patient or carer member, represented by a patient or carer governor, from 1 June 2019 you would be recategorised as a public member, represented by a public governor from your area.

Governors also took the opportunity to review their numbers and adjust them in line with our membership numbers and the patient base served by the Trust. While governors eventually decided on an overall reduction from 35 to 29 governor seats, the distribution of governors will be fairer and result in better representation of members.

More details can be found in the [Council of Governors papers from October](#). The proposed changes will now be considered by the Board of Directors at its next meeting on Thursday 29 November at 11am and papers for the Board meeting will be available soon at the following [link](#). We'll be in touch with more details in the coming weeks.

Psychology in Health event – Thursday 29 November – 4pm

There are still spaces available at our upcoming Psychology in Health event, taking place next Thursday 29 November from 4-5.30pm. Come along to meet some of our clinical psychologists and hear about how psychology (the science of how we think, feel and behave) is used in healthcare to improve patient experience and care – with an opportunity for Q&A. The talk will take place in Lecture Theatre 1, Education and Research Centre, Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol BS2 8AE. Doors open from 3.30pm for refreshments. You can book your place at this [link](#).

Date for your diary – annual research showcase

The next annual UH Bristol 'Research Showcase' will take place on Thursday 17 January. This year's event is based around a general theme of 'research as an opportunity' and speakers will be from a variety of specialities and staff groups. The talks are accessible to anyone with an interest in research and evidence based care. You can register for just the morning or afternoon, or for the whole day. For more information please go to this [link](#)

Trust news

Do you want free dental treatment?

If you don't have a dentist but require routine dental care, you may be suitable for free treatment by our student dentists, therapists or hygienists under the supervision of trained clinicians at the University of Bristol Dental Hospital. Treatment is provided free of charge by a dedicated team of staff and students. The service operates most days of the week, but you will need to commit to lengthy appointments and be available to attend appointments on most days of the week. Further information about this service can be found at this [link](#).

Partnership working with Weston Area NHS Health Trust

Our partnership working with Weston Area NHS Health Trust continues to develop. Both trusts are working towards merging in late 2019, but the timing is dependent on the outcome of the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group's [Healthy Weston programme](#). This programme is expected to develop a shortlist of potential options for change in Weston that it will formally consult on with the public in early 2019. In the meantime, teams at UH Bristol and Weston are collaborating in a number of areas, promoting partnership and sharing areas of best practice and initiatives that have brought about real benefits to patients and staff.

Other news

Are you interested in stories, theatre and creative technology?

And finally, PECo Theatre is developing 'Dark City' – an immersive multi-sensory theatre piece exploring visual impairment. Open to anyone who is visually impaired or connected to the visually impaired community, Dark City sessions are an enjoyable and inspiring way for you to engage with and help develop the project as it evolves. Sessions take place at Pervasive Media Studios, Watershed, central Bristol, Friday evenings. The first session will take place on Friday 30 November, 6.30 – 9.00pm. Numbers are limited so to reserve your place and register please contact: emma@partexchangeeco.org.uk

Until next month

Best wishes

Kate Hanlon

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