

Candidate Statements

Please read carefully before casting your vote.

Click on a candidate's name below to read their statement.

- Christine Ashdown
- Chrissie Gardner
- Abdifatah Godah
- Philip Hill
- Vanda Martins
- Adebimpe Olaniyi
- Dave Roberts

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Christine Ashdown

Why do you wish to carry out this role?

I believe it is important for the board to be aware of staff views in order to deliver excellent patient care. If we have happy staff we have happy patients.

What skills do you feel you bring to the role?

I've worked for the NHS for 11 years in administration currently working as a secretary / administrator and have experience of representing peoples views as Parish Councillor, Union Rep and am a speak up advocate for the trust which I believe passionately in.

Any other information that you feel is relevant?

Staff Non-Clinical Candidates - 1 to elect

If elected I will present your views and concerns to the board and question any decisions on your behalf. I will represent and speak up for the admin staff to the best of my ability and make sure the board is aware of how we feel and what our vision of the future is.

Declaration of Interests:

Political Party: None

Financial or other interest in the Trust: None

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Chrissie Gardner

Why do you wish to carry out this role?

Via the staff governor role I would hope to learn more about how our Trust is corporately run and to have a clearer understanding of the Trust's accountability processes.

What skills do you feel you bring to the role?

Having worked for 26 years in various locations (BCH, BRI, BEH and BDH) I have a broad perspective of the incredible services our Trust delivers through the sheer hard work of clinicians and their integral support staff. Being a trade unionist for decades (currently in Unite as Lead Rep for Support Staff) and having represented many staff across all disciplines over the last 20 years, I understand our policies and have learnt how to listen to staff concerns and support them when some of those policies are invoked. My mum and dad were both ancillary staff in the NHS and myself and my family have also been users of the service, so we are immensely thankful for the existence of the NHS! But I'm concerned about the future of the NHS and have therefore been an active campaigner in Keep our NHS public (KONP) and more recently involved, through my Unite health branch, with Protect our NHS.

Any other information that you feel is relevant?

Staff Non-Clinical Candidates - 1 to elect

I believe in partnership working (Trade Unions and management) but not at the expense of hard working staffs' terms and conditions. Importantly, my commitment to staff members is to speak out against any form of bullying and harassment and racism which has no place in the running of our amazing organisation.

Declaration of Interests:

Political Party: Socialist Workers Party

Financial or other interest in the Trust: None

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Abdifatah Godah

Why do you wish to carry out this role?

I wish to carry out this role because I have a massive passion for helping to make a difference and shape the NHS to something great for staff and patients. I would like to be the voice of our NHS staff and see decisions made based on what suits us all. I believe no matter where you work inside the hospital, whatever role, you should have a voice to create a better place. A hospital which has 2 way communication and aspires it's staff to achieve great levels of service. Where every single member of staff's voice matters in order to deliver the best care to our patients and hospital. One Voice, One Hospital.

What skills do you feel you bring to the role?

Since UHBristol has invested in me for nearly a year, I am become enthusiastic about my work and motivated in my career. I use my own initiative in my role which is a highly valuable thing to have. Effective communication is an essential part in my day to day role as I communicate with varies individuals. I am the kind of person who is able to recognise areas of weakness so that I can develop and use my strengths. Being Flexible allows me to make time for others so I can work better. I am a good listener, patient and determined to succeed and create a better environment for people of all ages and groups.

Staff Non-Clinical Candidates - 1 to elect

Any other information that you feel is relevant?

See Share Change! Let's make our voices our future.

Declaration of Interests:

Political Party: None

Financial or other interest in the Trust: None

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Philip Hill

Why do you wish to carry out this role?

I am an IT professional with a passion for IT and how it can be used to make a positive difference to the way in which we all live and work. IT systems are too often perceived as a hindrance and something to put up with! Rather than valuable and reliable tools that ought to help us achieve our respective goals.

My experience is that IT users have very reasonable expectations; they will expend a great deal of effort and a lot of patience to make their IT work for them. The common fundamental request made is simply for performance and reliability!

If elected I will aim to represent everyone at University Hospitals Bristol and work with my fellow Governors and colleagues to see that your requirements and concerns are considered in all that we do digitally!

What skills do you feel you bring to the role?

I have more than twenty years' experience in IT roles, ranging from Support to IT system design and delivery where performance and reliability were the essential deliverables! I have a sound understanding of the technologies used in IT and their potential.

Staff Non-Clinical Candidates - 1 to elect

My communication skills are one of my best assets, I am experienced, comfortable and confident working with all levels of seniority in an organisation.

I have a natural empathy and a strong sense of right and wrong, my experience has taught me to listen, when to be flexible and when to stand firm.

Any other information that you feel is relevant?

I believe that good planning sometimes means asking difficult questions and requiring good answers!

Declaration of Interests:

Political Party: None

Financial or other interest in the Trust: None

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Vanda Martins

Why do you wish to carry out this role?

I'd like to become a governor because I am already well involved in the Trust life and I'd like to provide more support to the Trust and staff as they work hard to give all of our patients and visitors a good stay.

I've been at Hotel Services BRI since 2017, I'm managing approximately 120 members of staff.

I've also worked previously at Weston General Hospital for 6.5 years, this has led me to manage a large team of staff that needed my support on a daily basis.

They also help me to continue my learning about two of the things I am extremely passionate about; equality and diversity and team work.

I feel that I can cast an independent eye over the workings of the Trust and bring a fresh perspective to the work of the existing governors.

Staff Non-Clinical Candidates - 1 to elect

What skills do you feel you bring to the role?

I feel passionately about diverse roles in healthcare. My father worked all his life in different hospitals and I always enjoyed the environment.

If elected I would carry on to work with energy and enthusiasm to help the Trust to maintain its high standards, and meet future challenges.

I feel I understand the requirements of the role, and, as I am working at the Trust on a daily basis, I hope that I would be approachable and accessible to other staff.

Any other information that you feel is relevant?

I am looking forward to share my personal and working experience with the other governors and to learn more about the role.

I know different languages and that helps me *(statement cut at word limit)*

Declaration of Interests:

Political Party: None

Financial or other interest in the Trust: None

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Adebimpe Olaniyi

Why do you wish to carry out this role?

I joined Bristol Royal Infirmary NHS Foundation Trust in 2016 as a Ward Clerk and later moved to Resourcing department. I would like to apply for the role of Staff Governor so that I can contribute more, not just to the strategic direction within the NHS but also helping staff members, making sure that their views are well represented. I would want the staff member's voice to be heard, by representing them and their interest. Also, I would like to be more involved in what is happening within the Bristol Royal Infirmary because this is a good place to work. I have really enjoyed working within this hospital. I decided to

Staff Non-Clinical Candidates - 1 to elect

apply for this position because I have the staff interest at heart and part of the hospital's vision is to serve, I would like to be part of the team that serve. When staffs are well represented, it will make them feel valued and this will enhance their performance.

This position will give me opportunity and chance to develop new skills and at the same time practising the existing ones, such as chairing meetings, speaking in groups, asking questions, making suggestions and appointing staff which will improve my personal growth and development. I know this is a voluntary role that requires consistency and commitment, not only that more responsibilities is required. I am ready to take up the responsibilities with a great commitment.

I would be grateful if my application is considered

What skills do you feel you bring to the role?

A good interpersonal skill which includes good *(statement cut at word limit)*

Declaration of Interests:

Political Party: None

Financial or other interest in the Trust: None

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Dave Roberts

Why do you wish to carry out this role?

Since first joining the NHS 8 years ago I've worked for a number of organisations in various roles. As a result, I have experience of different aspects to patient care and some of the mechanisms that work 'in the background' that enable such care to develop, go live and then improve patient care. I hope that by being appointed to a Governors role I can gain further insight to the operating of the Trust so I can gain experience of other aspects such as Finance, Governance, Audit, etc.

Staff Non-Clinical Candidates - 1 to elect

What skills do you feel you bring to the role?

From my time in the NHS I'm been involved in IM&T, Transformation and HR. From this mixture of experience of the NHS I'd hope to bring a unique view point to the Governors that could benefit the Trust as a whole.

Any other information that you feel is relevant?

As both an employee and patient for the Trust, I've had the privilege of being at both ends of the services we provide. As an employee I've been honoured to work for the Trust after seeing what we offer our patients, and as a patient, I've been impressed with the knowledge and abilities of the staff that have cared for both me and my family and would love to learn more about the 'inner workings'.

Declaration of Interests:

Political Party: None

Financial or other interest in the Trust: None

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