

## THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

Governors' key role is to represent members' views and ensure the Trust reflects the needs of local communities. They will act as a two-way channel of communication – sharing members' views with the Trust and feeding information back to their communities. Other responsibilities include:

- Being involved in developing Trust plans
- Helping to develop membership
- Promoting positive mental health and speaking out against discrimination
- Approving the appointment of the next chief executive and appointing the next chair, non executive directors and auditor.

## GETTING INVOLVED

If you are already a Foundation Trust member, get in touch and we can give you more information about standing as a governor.

If you are not a member, you'll need to sign up! Becoming a member is simple:

- Complete the online form – log on to: [www.awp.nhs.uk](http://www.awp.nhs.uk) and follow the links on the membership pages

Or request an application form:

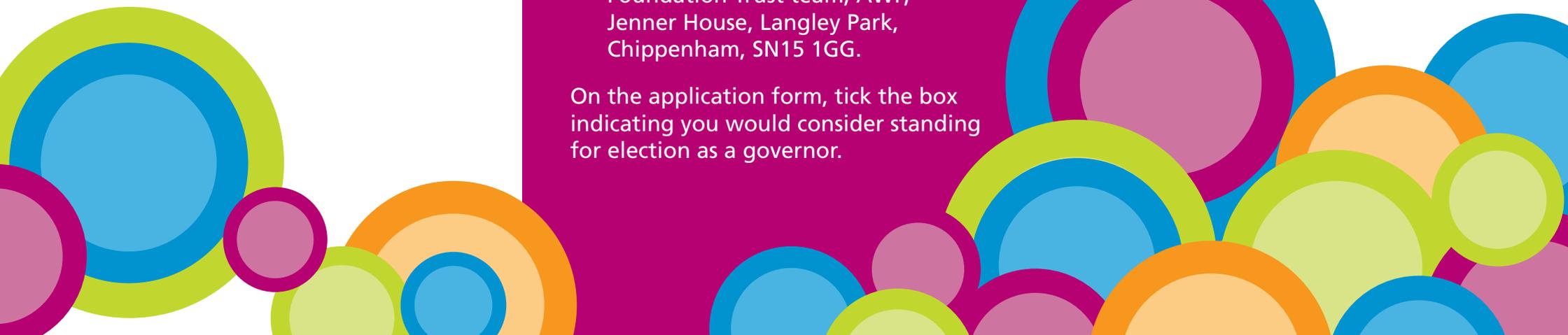
- From a member of staff
- **By phoning:**  
0800 694 9990 or 01249 468 377
- **By emailing:**  
[foundationtrustinfo@awp.nhs.uk](mailto:foundationtrustinfo@awp.nhs.uk)
- **By post:**  
Foundation Trust team, AWP,  
Jenner House, Langley Park,  
Chippenham, SN15 1GG.

On the application form, tick the box indicating you would consider standing for election as a governor.

## JOIN OUR FOUNDATION TRUST

Become a governor

and share our passion for local mental health services





Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP) provides health and social care services in Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire.

We provide services for people with mental health needs, with needs relating to drug and alcohol dependency and services for people with learning disabilities. We also provide secure mental health services as well as working with the criminal justice system throughout the south west.

We are working towards becoming an NHS Foundation Trust (FT), which will give us the freedom to work more closely with local people, service users and carers to improve our services.

More information about our journey to become an FT is available on our website: [www.awp.nhs.uk](http://www.awp.nhs.uk)

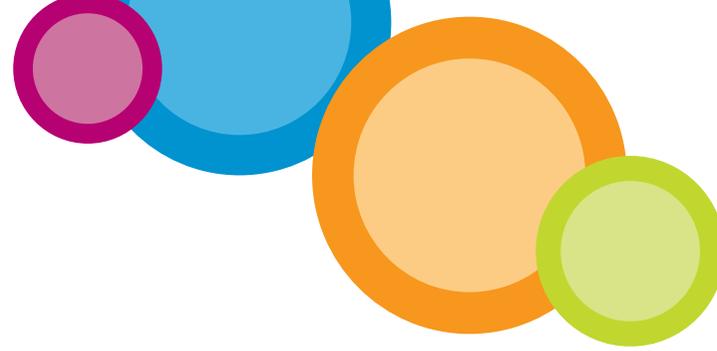


## WHY WE NEED GOVERNORS

**Our vision is to enable and empower people to reach their potential and live fulfilling lives.**

We will have a membership that represents the diverse communities we serve. Our members will play an active role in helping us to become an even stronger, more responsive organisation.

Members have the right to vote for governors and those over the age of 18 have the right to stand for election as a governor. The role of governors will be to listen to and represent the views of members and help ensure the Trust meets the needs of the people it serves.



## THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

There will be a board of 30 governors. The board of governors acts as a channel of communication between members and the board of directors who are responsible for the running of the Trust.

The board of governors will be made up of six service user governors, three carer governors, six staff governors and seven public governors. These governors will be elected by our members. There will also be eight governors appointed from partner organisations.

Governors must be at least 18 years of age.

They will have terms of office of up to three years but, if re-elected or re-appointed, they may serve for up to nine consecutive years.

Governors give their time voluntarily (though they are reimbursed for their expenses). They will receive training and support to develop the skills needed to fulfil their role.