

9 October 2012

Media Release

Voting set to start in first-ever RUH elections

Voting is set to start in our NHS Foundation Trust elections with 48 of our members having put themselves forward to become the first-ever Governors of the Royal United Hospital.

Thirty-four nominations have been received from our public members, and they will contest 11 seats on our Council of Governors across the RUH's six public constituencies – City of Bath, North East Somerset, Mendip, North Wiltshire, South Wiltshire, and the Rest of England and Wales. Fourteen nominations have been received from our Staff members, and they will also contest five staff seats.

Each of the constituencies will elect two Governors, apart from the Rest of England and Wales, which will elect one.

Governors act as representatives for their respective areas and provide a link with the wider community. Their role includes holding the Trust's Board of Directors to account for our performance, delivering strategic plans, and meeting our core purpose and values.

Chairman Brian Stables says: "When we become an NHS Foundation Trust we will be accountable to the local community through our members and Governors.

"I'm delighted so many people have put themselves forward to become one of our Governors and I wish everybody standing the best of luck.

"This is your opportunity to vote for the candidate who you think will best represent your views. Please make sure you have your say and make your vote count."

To find out more about the candidates standing in the elections go to our website, www.ruh.nhs.uk

Voting packs will be distributed to all of our NHS Foundation Trust members on Wednesday 10 October, with all members who joined the RUH before 28 September 2012 eligible to vote. If you haven't received your ballot papers by 17 October please contact the Membership Office on 01225 821299 or RUHmembership@nhs.net

Completed ballot papers must be received by our returning officer, the Electoral Reform Services, before 5pm on Friday 2 November 2012. Election results will be published on our website on Monday 5 November 2012.

At the same time as the public elections, staff are also voting to elect five members of staff to sit as Staff Governors on our Council of Governors.

The rest of the 21-seat Council will be made up of five Stakeholder Governors, with one governor from each of: NHS Bath and North East Somerset, NHS Wiltshire, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Wiltshire Council, and a representative from the University of Bath.

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