

# Membership matters

## Foundation Trust Members Newsletter - December 2025

News and updates from Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHH).

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## Welcome

Welcome to our winter newsletter!

In this edition, I want to share the results of our governor elections. We saw an unprecedented number of candidates this year. Before I talk about the new governors, I would like to thank those who have served, in particular Keith Bland and Anne Robinson, who each completed three full terms, an incredible nine years of service. I would also like to welcome Diane Nield back. I look forward to meeting all our new governors at the induction day.

Alongside our Q&A with fellow public governor Catherine, this edition features reflections from public governor Alan, who was elected at the same time. Together, their experiences offer an insightful look at the work of our governors over the last year.

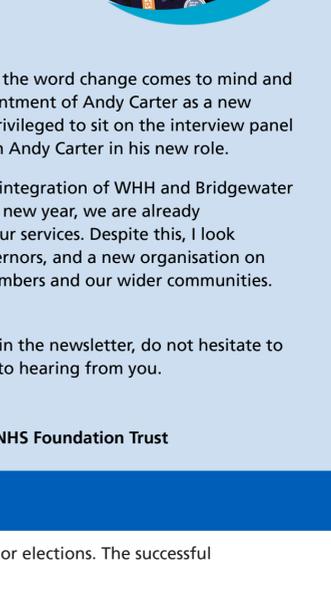
In our last newsletter, I shared that when I think of the NHS, the word change comes to mind and it still does. We are about to enter a new era with the appointment of Andy Carter as a new chair for WHH. You can read more about this below. I was privileged to sit on the interview panel for the selection process, and I look forward to working with Andy Carter in his new role.

As we move into 2026, I am also looking forward to the full integration of WHH and Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust (BCH). But before we reach the new year, we are already experiencing winter pressures that are beginning to affect our services. Despite this, I look forward to 2026 with great optimism, a new chair, new governors, and a new organisation on the horizon, all working to redesign patient care for our members and our wider communities.

If you have any suggestions that you would like us to cover in the newsletter, do not hesitate to get in touch on [whh.foundation@nhs.net](mailto:whh.foundation@nhs.net) We look forward to hearing from you.

**Sue Fitzpatrick**

**Lead Governor, Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**



## Governor elections results

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2025 governor elections. The successful candidates will start their term on 1 December 2025.

Congratulations to all the successful candidates and thank you to everyone who participated in the voting process. We would also like to thank and say farewell to those governors who have come to the end of their final term of office and those who were not re-elected.

Please read the [Report of Voting](#) and the [Uncontested Report](#), for a full breakdown of the results.

### Public governors

**Warrington and Halton**  
Diane Nield  
Helen Bennett  
Matt Machin  
Stephen Bryan Walton

**Public: Rest of England**  
Dorcas Akeju

### Staff governors

**Estates, Administration, Managerial**  
Suresh Krishna Arni Sukumaran

**Medical and Dental**  
Vacant

**Nursing and midwifery**  
Mary Michelle Teodora Kho

More information on your governors is available on the [Trust's website](#).

## Governors working together to support engagement

Governors from WHH and BCH governors came together for the first Governor Engagement Group in Common on 6 November, to support closer working ahead of becoming one single organisation.

The meeting, held at Warrington Hospital's Wingman Lounge, is a forum for all foundation trust governors (public, staff and partner) to come together and discuss ways in which they can support engagement with the membership constituencies and wider communities they represent.

Governors also share updates from the many activities, committees and working groups that they attend and input to, providing views on behalf of their public and staff members and the organisations they represent. The forum also provides an opportunity for governors to receive updates on developments and Trust services that are most frequently raised by their members or during their community engagement activity or observation visits.

The quarterly meeting provides an opportunity to discuss their engagement and involvement in advance of each Trust's individual Council of Governors meeting.

For more information on the work of our governors at each of our Trusts visit:

- [Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust governors](#)
- [Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Trust - Foundation Trust and Council of Governors](#)



## New chair appointed at WHH

A new chair is joining Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHH) to lead its Board of Directors. Andy Carter has been appointed to the position following a robust and competitive recruitment process.

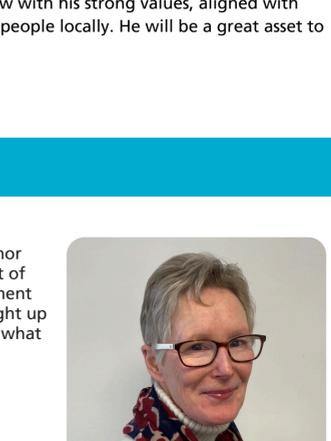
Andy previously served as MP for the Warrington South constituency from 2019 to 2024, with his political career also seeing him serve as parliamentary private secretary in the Department of Work and Pensions and in the Department for Transport, as well as being a member of the Justice Select Committee.

Andy will join the organisation in January 2026 as associate non-executive director and chair designate. From 1 April he will take up the role of chair, replacing Professor Steve McGuirk whose final term comes to an end in March 2026 after having served the Trust for more than a decade.

Speaking of his appointment, Andy said: "I am enormously grateful for everything the NHS delivers across Warrington, Halton and beyond, and I feel deeply honoured to have the opportunity to work alongside the thousands of dedicated staff and partner organisations."

Sue Fitzpatrick, lead governor at WHH, said: "I am delighted to welcome Andy to Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals. He impressed at interview with his strong values, aligned with our own, and his commitment to improving the lives of people locally. He will be a great asset to the Trust, championing our staff and patients."

[Read the full announcement.](#)



## Hello from your governor

### Catherine Ardern

It's a year since Catherine was elected as a public governor for Warrington in December 2024. As a lifelong resident of the town, she brought with her a deep-rooted commitment to the health and wellbeing of her community. We caught up with her to reflect on her first year in the role and hear what continues to drive her.

[Read more](#) from Catherine.

If you want to contact your governors, please email [whh.foundation@nhs.net](mailto:whh.foundation@nhs.net) with your query or with a request for them to contact you, include your location so that we can ensure the correct governor gets in touch with you.

You can also call us on 01925 662139.

[Find out more about your local governors.](#)



## Reflections on my first year as public governor

Public governor Alan Davies reflects on his first year representing the local communities of the Trust.

It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since I was elected as a public governor, and what a year it has been. It has been a real learning curve, sometimes steep but always rewarding. Before joining the Trust, I knew very little about how a hospital organisation worked. Like many local people, my experience was limited to attending for a blood test or a minor procedure. I certainly wasn't that finding a parking space at Warrington was never easy, and that both hospitals were becoming busier with our growing population.

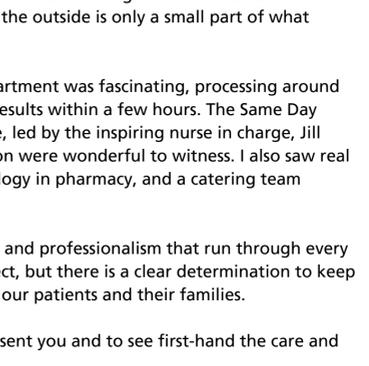
During my first few meetings, I often felt quite out of my depth. There were so many acronyms, new departments, and experienced people who all seemed to know exactly what was being discussed. After some reflection, I decided to see my lack of NHS experience as a strength. I had no fixed views or assumptions and could ask open and honest questions. I was also very fortunate to have supportive fellow governors, especially our lead governor, Sue Fitzpatrick, and deputy lead governor, Diane Nield. Their patience, kindness, and reassurance made a huge difference during those early months.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has been taking part in governor walkabouts. Each month, we visit different areas of the hospitals, speak directly with staff and patients, and see how services are running. These visits have given me a real insight into the size and complexity of the Trust. What the public sees from the outside is only a small part of what happens behind the scenes each day.

Several visits stand out for me. The Pathology Department was fascinating, processing around one thousand blood samples a day and returning results within a few hours. The Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) unit was equally impressive, led by the inspiring nurse in charge, Jill Nuckley, whose energy, knowledge and compassion were wonderful to witness. I also saw real improvements in outpatients, cutting edge technology in pharmacy, and a catering team producing fresh, healthy meals every single day.

This year has shown me the dedication, teamwork, and professionalism that run through every part of the Trust. Of course, not everything is perfect, but there is a clear determination to keep improving and to deliver the best possible care for our patients and their families.

Thank you for electing me. It is an honour to represent you and to see first-hand the care and commitment that make our hospitals so special.



## WHH Charity

At [WHH Charity](#), we continue to see incredible acts of kindness from our community, each one helping to enhance care and create moments that truly matter. Here are some of the uplifting stories from across our hospitals.

### Parents donate cot in memory of their daughter

Chloe and Liam Welsby have donated an Abi Chloee Cot to the Butterfly Suite in memory of their daughter Maeve Rose. Their donation will help families spend precious time with their babies. [Read more.](#)

### School visit brings joy to patients

Pupils from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School visited the Forget Me Not Unit and the Stroke Unit at Warrington Hospital, performing cheerful songs and handing out heartfelt cards. Their visit offered a lovely boost to staff and patients. [Watch video.](#)

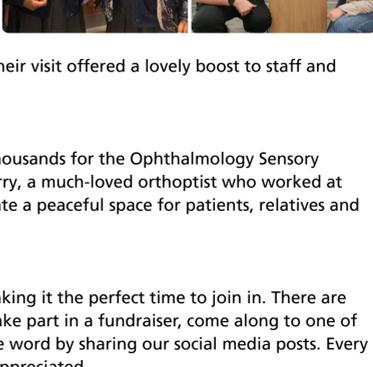
### Autumn ball boosts Sensory Garden appeal

The Ophthalmology Autumn Charity Ball raised thousands for the Ophthalmology Sensory Garden Appeal, launched in memory of Tracey Parry, a much-loved orthoptist who worked at WHH for more than 25 years. The garden will create a peaceful space for patients, relatives and staff. [Read more.](#)

### Get involved in 2026

Next year marks the charity's 30th anniversary, making it the perfect time to join in. There are many ways you can show your support. You can take part in a fundraiser, come along to one of our events, volunteer your time or help spread the word by sharing our social media posts. Every contribution makes a real difference and is truly appreciated.

To learn more, email [whh.charity@nhs.net](mailto:whh.charity@nhs.net) or visit [our website](#).



## News at WHH

News and updates from the Trust are available to view on the [latest news pages](#) on our website.

## Events at WHH

For more information on events that WHH are involved with or arranging visit the [events section](#) on the WHH website or contact [whh.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:whh.engagement@nhs.net)

## Work at WHH

If you are interested in a role in healthcare and with us, check out our latest vacancies.

[Click here to view our current vacancies.](#)

## Get involved

Support vital research work at WHH by signing up to take part in clinical research as part of the Pathway to Research programme.

[Find out more.](#)

Experts by Experience (EbyEs) are volunteers with lived experience, who help us to understand how it feels to either access services, or to care for someone who does.

Signing up takes just a minute or two. Just fill in the form at [here](#) and we'll be in touch.

For more information, please email [whh.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:whh.engagement@nhs.net)

## Your governors

For more information on the role of governors at WHH, from some of our current governors, please watch our [YouTube video](#).

For more information on Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust visit [www.whh.nhs.uk](http://www.whh.nhs.uk)



Working Together



Excellence



Inclusive



Kind



Embracing Change