

Responsibilities of the Trust Board and how we are regulated

NHS Trust Boards play a key role in shaping the strategy, vision and purpose of an organisation. They are responsible for holding the organisation to account for the delivery of the strategy and to ensure value for money. They are also responsible for assuring that risks to the organisation and the public are managed and mitigated effectively. Led by an independent Chair and composed of a mixture of both executive and independent non-executive members, the Trust Board has a collective responsibility for the performance of the organisation.

The main focus of the Trust Board is providing high standards of health care

The framework by which we use to meet and monitor these high standards is known as *clinical governance*. The highest priority of the Trust Board is to ensure that effective governance arrangements are in place. All NHS providers are required to register with the [Care Quality Commission](#), the independent regulator of health and social care in England. The Care Quality Commission's inspection regime provides further assurance around the quality of our services to the communities we serve.

Financial Monitoring and Control

NHS services are paid for with public funds and NHS Trusts must ensure that services are good value for money. The Trust Board is responsible for financial management and to ensure that effective financial control systems are in place. For further assurance and transparency, the Trust's financial affairs are scrutinised by:

- the Trust's independent internal auditors; as part of their local audit programme
- the Trust's independent external auditors; as part of the statutory review of our annual accounts
- NHS England, who lead in the delivery of quality services for all, and are responsible for supporting and developing NHS Trusts in England
- National and parliamentary scrutiny bodies, such as the Health Select Committee

The Trust's accounts are published annually and can be seen within our [Annual Reports](#).

Accountability

NHS Trusts are accountable to the Department of Health via [NHS England \(NHSE\)](#), the financial regulator of NHS Trusts in England. NHSE supports NHS Trusts to ensure patients receive consistently safe, high quality, compassionate care within local health systems that are financially sustainable.

Probity

All Board members must be open about their own business interests which may impact on the decisions of the Trust. All such interests must be made public and are recorded in a public register. The latest version of our Board Members' Declarations of Conflicts of Interest can be found on our register of interests page here: [Registers of Interests – SaTH](#)

Code of Openness/Freedom of Information

Our Code of Openness ensures sufficient transparency about the activities undertaken at the Trust. It is intended to promote confidence with our staff, patients and the public. An example of our commitment to being open and transparent is by holding meetings of the Trust Board in public and publishing the [minutes and papers of the Trust Board meetings](#). The Trust is also obliged to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000; please visit the [Freedom of Information pages](#) on our website for further information.