NHS
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING 2026

Lead Governor's Annual update

MEETING	19 November 2026 | Annual Members' Meeting

A message to our members

This annual update explains how the Council of Governors has fulfilled its statutory duties and kept members informed during the year.

OUR ROLE

Holding our Board to account

Governors are responsible for holding the non-executive directors, individually and collectively, to account for the performance of the Board of Directors.

Four formal meetings each year

The Council's formal meetings provide governors with a regular opportunity to speak with and challenge non-executive directors.

- The Chief Executive and NEDs routinely attend.
- Other executive directors attend when required.

Assure • Alert • Advise

NED committee chairs provide "AAA" reports, giving governors a clear summary of the matters discussed and challenged at Board committee meetings.

- Assure: where confidence is provided
- Alert: where attention is required
- Advise: where information is shared

Read Council of Governors meeting minutes: wwl.nhs.uk/agendas-and-papers

REPRESENTING MEMBERS

Seeing services first-hand

Organised visits to clinical sites give governors the opportunity to observe NED engagement with staff and patients, and to triangulate those experiences with the information and data received at meetings.

Keeping you in the picture

At each formal meeting, governors can share the views of the population we serve with the Board. Four workshops are also held each year, often focusing on topics governors have asked to explore in greater depth.

This year's workshop programme

What it means to be a governor • Community work with Wigan Athletic Community Trust • Strengthening engagement • The future role of the Council of Governors

OUR PEOPLE

Appointments and reappointments

NED reappointment

Julie Gill has been reappointed as Chair of Finance & Performance for a further three-year term.

A new Chair for WWL

The Council of Governors appointed Dame Robina Shah as Chair for a three-year term.

"I am truly honoured to be appointed as the Chair of WWL and would like to thank the Council of Governors for placing their confidence in me."

DAME ROBINA SHAH

Dame Robina brings previous NHS experience, including a period as Chair of Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and, more recently, as a Non-Executive Director at Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Out and about

Wigan Pride

Governors also attended Wigan Pride during the year, supporting visible engagement with the communities WWL serves.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Governor elections

The following people were elected to the Council this year:

Governor	Constituency
Steven Eastwood	Rest of England & Wales
Anthony Ashworth-Steen	Rest of England & Wales
Peter Allard	Wigan • re-elected
Mike Mills	Makerfield
Robert Ford	Leigh

Looking ahead

The uncertainty surrounding the future role of NHS Foundation Trust governors has been a significant issue for the Council during the year. Following discussion with governors, the Board agreed in August 2026 to pause the elections due to take place in the autumn while the NHS Modernisation Bill progresses. Consideration was also given to retaining the knowledge and experience of governors reaching the end of their terms through the opportunity to remain involved as non-voting Associate Governors. This offers continuity while future arrangements become clearer.

TERMS ENDING

Thank you for your contribution

The terms of the following governors are ending - along with myself, the latter five colleagues listed will continue to support the council in an associate governor capacity.

- Ken Griffiths — Makerfield
- Andrew Bullen — Makefield
- Julie Barratt — Nursing and Midwifery
- Phil Woods — Makerfield
- Ali Al-Chalabi — All other staff
- Andy Savage

We would like to thank the following Governors, who have recently stepped down from their roles, for their valued contribution and commitment:

- John Cavagnah — Appointed Governor, Volunteers
- Linda Sykes — Leigh
- Gary Twist — Leigh
- Anita Baker — Wigan
- Pauline Gregroy – Wigan

FROM THE LEAD GOVERNOR

A closing thank you

On behalf of WWL's Council of Governors, I would like to thank our members and all WWL colleagues for their ongoing support.

Although the future arrangements for Foundation Trust membership are not yet known, WWL remains committed to listening to and engaging with patients, members and the wider public.

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

Speak to a governor from your constituency or send us your comments.

members@wwl.nhs.uk

0300 707 2186

Thank you for reading

Andy Savage

Lead Governor