

News Release

18 March 2009

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governor Elections

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (DCHFT) is now nearly two years old.

As a Foundation Trust, it has a Council of Governors which comprises 22 Elected Staff and Public Governors and 10 Appointed Governors.

On 31 May 2009, two thirds of the Elected Public Governor positions are due for election and the Trust would like to encourage all registered members to participate in the election – and if you are aged 18 and over, have a particular interest in your Health Service and have the time and commitment for the Council of Governors, then you can put yourself forward as a potential Governor for election.

All registered members will receive on or after the 25 March 2009, a Notification of Election document from Electoral Reform Services. Registered members can place themselves forward for Governor election by requesting a Nomination Form from Electoral Reform Services (see contact details below) which must be returned to ERS by the 9 April 2009.

Trust Corporate Business Manager John Yeoman said: “Elected Governors, who are volunteers, have made a tremendous difference to the governance of this Foundation Trust.

“Governors have several statutory duties under the NHS Act 2006 which are: to appoint or remove the Chair and the Non Executive Directors; to approve the appointment of the Chief Executive; to decide the remuneration and allowances and other terms and conditions of office of the chair and other non-executive directors; to appoint or remove the Trusts Auditors and to receive the Trust’s audit report and scrutinise the Trust’s annual plan.

“They also hold the Trust Board to account for the performance of the FT through their general business meetings and engage with the Trust Board in the strategic planning process. We have also encouraged our Governors to participate as observers in high-level committees and independent monitoring of patient areas in respect of Quality Assurance.

“To vote in the elections or to become a Governor you must be a registered member of the Foundation Trust. We are also embarking on a membership recruitment campaign to reach a target of 25,000 members and we need your relatives and friends to register via, our website www.dchft.nhs.uk , email at

foundation@dchft.nhs.uk or telephone 01305 254114 for a membership application form. **Membership is absolutely free.**”

Electoral Reform Services can be contacted at - The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, London, N8 0NW Tel No 020 8365 8909.

ENDS

For more information about this news release please contact John Yeoman on 01305 254114 or john.yeoman@dchft.nhs.uk