

**PRESS RELEASE – 20 September, 2017**

### **Your opportunity to shape health services**

An exciting opportunity is available for people with an interest in health to join the Council of Governors of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust.

Vacancies currently exist for public governors to bring their experience as a member of their local community to the Council's discussions and help shape the future of healthcare in the borough.

The Trust provides hospital services in South Tyneside and community health services in South Tyneside, Sunderland and Gateshead. Two new governors are required from South Tyneside, two from Sunderland, one from Gateshead and one from the rest of North East England.

Only Trust members are eligible to stand as governors. The deadline for nominations is Monday, October 23rd, and the results will be declared at the Council of Governors' meeting in December.

Special awareness sessions have been arranged for those interested in standing for election to find out more about the role. These are as follows:

- Tuesday, September 26th, 3.30pm, Committee Room, Education Centre, South Tyneside District Hospital, Harton Lane, South Shields, NE34 0PL
- Thursday, September 28th, 3.30pm, Meeting Room L2-057, Felling Health Centre, Stephenson Terrace, Gateshead, NE10 9QG
- Monday, October 2nd, 3.30pm, Health Education Room, Riverview Health Centre, Borough Rd, Sunderland SR1 2HJ

All members will receive a Notice of Election letter from Electoral Reform Services in early October telling them how to apply.

Since September 2016, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust has been working together with City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust as part of a strategic alliance known as the South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group.

Whilst both Foundation Trusts remain as statutory bodies with a separate Council of Governors for each organisation, a joint executive management team has been in place since November 2016 and is working towards a shared vision to develop high quality healthcare services that will benefit local communities for many years to come.

Detailed work is currently taking place through the Path to Excellence programme to discuss how both Trusts can work better together to improve quality of care and address the challenges and pressures facing the whole NHS.

- Further information about South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Council of Governors is available on the Trust website at <https://www.stft.nhs.uk/about/council-of-governors> or you can ring the Membership Office on 0191 202 4121 or email [MembershipOffice.STFT@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:MembershipOffice.STFT@stft.nhs.uk) If you have any queries about the election process, please contact Electoral Reform Services on 020 8365 8909 or email [Ciara.norris@electoralreform.co.uk](mailto:Ciara.norris@electoralreform.co.uk)

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Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by **Kay Jordan**

For press enquiries on this release, contact **0191 404 1128** or email

[kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk)