



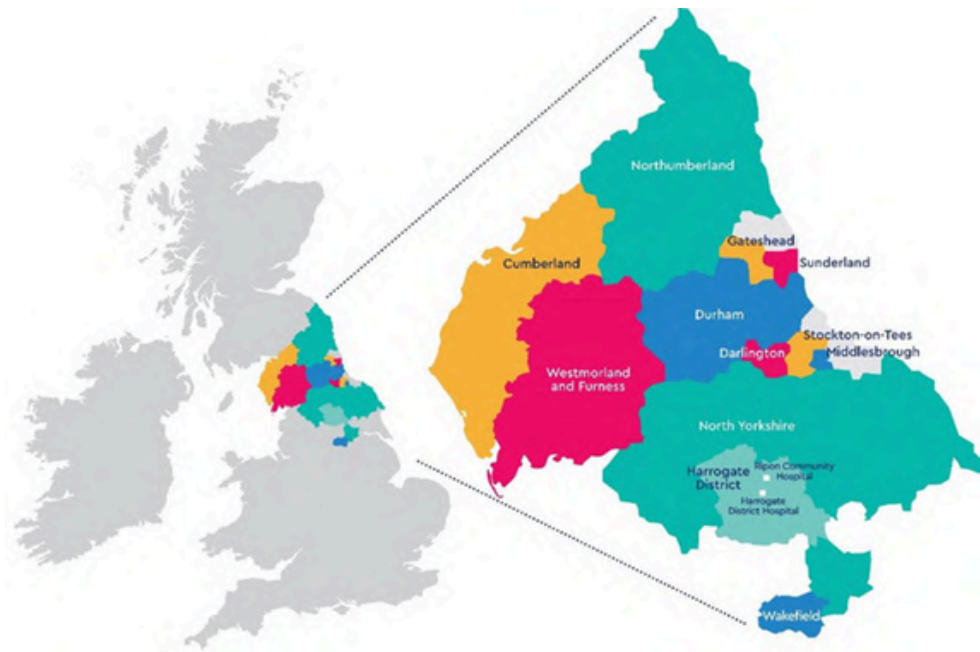
HDFT Member News

Introduction

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust cares for the population in Harrogate and the local area through Harrogate District Hospital, Ripon Community Hospital and Community Services across North Yorkshire.

We also provide children's services in: County Durham, Cumberland, Darlington, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire, Northumberland, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland, Wakefield and Westmoreland & Furness.

We value your voice as an NHS Foundation Trust accountable to its community. This newsletter is just one way we hope to keep you informed and engaged. As an NHS Foundation Trust, we are committed to keeping all our public and staff members informed and also to welcome new members – others who may want to support and influence their local hospitals and community health services.



For further information and to sign up for free membership and benefits follow link:
<https://www.hdft.nhs.uk/about/membership/>

Contents

- 1 Key Messages from the Trust Chair and Chief Executive
- 2 Update from the Lead Governor
- 3 Annual Members' Meeting 22nd September 2025 and Key Dates
- 4 Meet Our Governors
- 5 Reminder of Membership Benefits
- 6 Links to HDFT News Stories
- 7 Harrogate Hospital & Community Charity 30th Birthday Celebrations
- 8 Interested in a Career with HDFT?



Sarah Armstrong

Chair

Welcome to our membership newsletter ahead of the Annual Members' meeting on the Monday 22nd September 2025. Further details are included as part of this newsletter.

I'm truly inspired by the many remarkable achievements of our outstanding colleagues. We thank them for the incredible work they do every single day. Their commitment to patient care, in the face of challenges, make a profound difference in the lives of so many. They are the heart of the NHS, and their contributions should not go unnoticed.

Our commitment to continuous improvement has remained our focus over the last period. I would like to take a moment to highlight our collective focus on fostering collaboration, ensuring staff well-being and enhancing patient safety priorities that remain at the heart of our efforts. Together, we are not only addressing immediate demands but also building a sustainable future for healthcare delivery in our community.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognise the contributions made by our Governors and members, welcoming a new intake to the Council and bidding a grateful farewell to those who are leaving.



Sarah Armstrong

Chair

There continues to be more for us to do. We want to keep improving our care and remain absolutely committed to this. We will also embrace the ambitions of the new 10 Year Health Plan for England: Fit For The Future and have already taken important steps towards this.

In this newsletter we'll focus on new developments within the Trust and improvements we're making to our existing services.

I hope you'll find it interesting!

Sarah



Jonathan Coulter

Chief Executive

Hello and welcome from me, Jonathan, the Chief Executive of HDFT.

As you receive this newsletter and update, the NHS is at an important time, with the 10 Year Health Plan for England: Fit For The Future just published and a clear recognition that the NHS needs to continue to recover from the Covid pandemic and respond to the healthcare demands of the future. Across the NHS we are not collectively delivering the services that the population deserve or need, but here in HDFT we perform well. We are constantly striving to improve, and through our fantastic colleagues, we can demonstrate better care and support to people who need us.

If we reflect on the year that has just past, by any measure we have done well and provided care and support to hundreds of thousands of people across our catchment population. On the national measures, which are the ones identified by the public as being the most important, we had no-one waiting over 52 weeks for planned care, which is a year ahead of the national ambition. We delivered the 4-hour Emergency Department standard target by March 2025, our cancer standards significantly improved, and we met 43/45 of our mandated contacts standards for children. Away from just the national indicators, we can demonstrate less harm and safer care than the previous year, we have strong staffing levels, with vacancies way below where we were, and our agency use is down, which results in better quality care and also saves us money.



Jonathan Coulter

Chief Executive

We remain in the top quartile nationally in respect of staff survey feedback, and we continue to work with our staff to see what we can do together to be an even better place for them to come to work. We've delivered our largest capital investment programme, which has included ongoing projects like the new Electronic Patient Record, new theatres, new imaging department and associated schemes, as well as having our own well-being investment programme. We've been recognised for some of our innovations, and we've done all of this alongside being one of the most productive Trusts in the country.

So, in a time when the NHS is often criticised, we can point to the improvements we've made through our positivity, our focus on continuous improvement, and our focus on living our values. We want to keep doing the right things, in the right way, because we know they work.

We have recently welcomed new colleagues from Westmorland & Furness children's services, Cumberland children's services, and North House GP Surgery in Ripon, and these colleagues will further strengthen the team of people working for HDFT. We are doing well as an organisation, but we are ambitious to be even better – our patients and population deserve nothing less. Thank you for your interest and support of HDFT.



Jackie Lincoln

Lead Governor

I was privileged to be elected as Lead Governor in October last year following the resignation of our previous Lead Governor, Clare Illingworth.

I have been grateful for the tremendous support provided by my Deputy, Mike Dunn until June this year, when we bade a fond farewell to Mike along with a number of other Governors and we sincerely thank them for their tireless support and hard work during their terms of office. We have welcomed several new Governors after both our December and June elections and also invited Healthwatch North Yorkshire as a stakeholder organisation to nominate a Governor to join the Council. We aim to work together as a new team to strengthen our role in representing the interests of the Trust membership and the wider public.

Over the past year, the Council of Governors has continued to represent the interests of the Trust membership and the wider public by observing the activity and decision making of the Board. We engage in regular briefing meetings as well as using our formal Council meetings to ask questions and receive information which provides us with assurance on a range of issues important to our membership. See information on topics covered later in this newsletter.



Jackie Lincoln

Lead Governor

Governors are also responsible for the appointment of important Board roles and have actively been involved in the appointment of two new Non Executive Directors over the summer.

We have been regularly taking part in “walk around” visits to various departments within the Trust – looking at both hospital and community based services – and we are able to witness first hand the great work that is being carried out by the HDFT teams.

More detail on the work of Governors will be presented to the Annual Members’ Meeting on Monday 22nd September 2025 at the Pavilions – please join us!



This is the link to the Government’s 10 Year Health Plan for England: Fit For The Future issued in early July. The Governors are currently focused on this piece of work and what actions need to be taken.

The document includes ambitions for greater transparency and the importance of patient voice. We look forward to seeing detail on how this will happen in practice.



Jackie Lincoln

Lead Governor

As Governors, we have already been examining how we can improve our effectiveness within the HDFT's developing engagement strategy and the emerging proposals in the 10 Year Health Plan for England: Fit For The Future make it even more important for the views of the Trust membership, patients and public to be heard.

You will have an opportunity to participate in a round table discussion on this the Annual Members' Meeting on 22nd September 2025.

We continue to seek new and improved ways to engage with our members and welcome any feedback and ideas that you may wish to share with us.

You can reach us via the Foundation Trust office by emailing: hdft.foundationtrust@nhs.net.

Jackie Lincoln



We continue to seek new and improved ways to engage with our members and welcome any feedback and ideas that you may wish to share with us. Click here to see our current Membership Engagement Strategy.



You are invited to **Join Us**

You are invited to join us at our next meetings held in public - we'd love to see you there!

Members of the public are cordially invited to join Governors and senior leaders from Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust at its Annual Members' Meeting on Monday 22nd September 2025 in the Derwent Room, The Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, HG2 8NZ. Free car parking is available.

Registration for the formal meeting will take place from 4:30pm and there will be networking opportunities and refreshments for attendees. The formal meeting will commence at 5pm and finish at 6:45pm.

The theme this year is "Looking to future local priorities and the 10 Year Health Plan for England: Fit For The Future". Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from the Trust's Director of Strategy on the initial response by the Trust to Government's ambitions with an opportunity for round table discussion on what is most important to our local membership and population.

Annual Members Meeting

22nd September '25

Trust Board

**24th September '25
26th November '25
28th January '26**

Council of Governors

**2nd September '25
10th December '25**



Please let us know you are attending by
contacting: hdft.membership@nhs.net

Meet Our Governors

At the end of 2024 and in July 2025, some Council seats became vacant owing to Governors completing their terms of office, as Governors are elected for a term of 3 years.

The Trust welcomes new and returning Governors to the Council and looks forward to working with them throughout their terms of office.

Newly Elected:

- Andrew Clark
- Mike Fisher
- Dawn Raspin
- Nigel Hopps
- Richard Farrar

Re-elected/re-appointed:

- Jackie Lincoln
- Richard Owen-Hughes
- Rick Sweeney

New Stakeholder Governor:

- Alan Cunningham

However, elections also signal the end of an era for some Governors. The input from these Governors was greatly valued and they will be sorely missed. Those who left from the end of 2024 were:

- Tony Doveston
- Martin Dennys
- Ian Barlow
- Mike Dunn
- Kathy Gargan

A huge thank you to all our Governors past and present.



Further details for each of the Governors can be found on the Trust website:
<https://www.hdft.nhs.uk/about/council-of-Governors/meet-our-Governors/>

Meet Our Governors



Rachel Carter
Public Governor

Ripon & West District



John Hindle
Public Governor

Ripon & West District



Andrew Clark
Public Governor

**Wetherby, Harewood &
District**



Nigel Hopps
Public Governor

**Wetherby, Harewood &
District**



Dawn Raspin
Public Governor

**Harrogate & Surrounding
Villages**



Richard Farrar
Public Governor

**Harrogate & Surrounding
Villages**



Kevin Parry
Public Governor

**Harrogate & Surrounding
Villages**



Rick Sweeney
Public Governor

**Harrogate & Surrounding
Villages**



Mike Fisher
Public Governor

**Harrogate & Surrounding
Villages**

Meet Our Governors



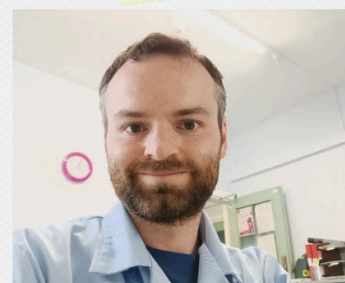
Richard Owen-Hughes
Public Governor

**Knaresborough & East
District**



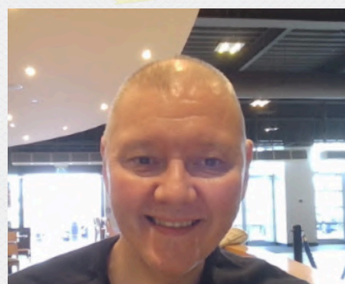
Jackie Lincoln
Public Governor

**Knaresborough & East
District**



Jonathan Allen
Staff Governor

Community



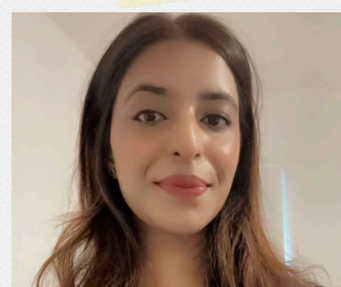
Mark Hutchinson
Staff Governor

O-19 Services



Emily Legge
Staff Governor

Other Clinical



Binesh Mehar
Staff Governor

Medical Practitioner



Steve Williams
Staff Governor

Nursing & Midwifery



David Haynes
Stakeholder Governor

HIF



Nick Brown
Stakeholder Governor
North Yorkshire Council

N.B. Alan Cunningham's photo was unavailable at time of print. He is the Stakeholder Governor for the Volunteer Sector.



PRIORITY

Membership & Communications

Keeping you informed about what is happening at HDFT and your benefits



Council of Governor Meetings

Your Governors have been following up on your comments on car parking, hospital signage and new arrangements for managing appointments, concerns about short notice cancellation of operations and accessibility of mental health services.

We've had updates on financial challenges, briefings on tackling health inequalities, meeting the needs of the elderly and progress on the implementation of the new electronic patient record. The full minutes of these meetings can be found by following the link below.

Members of the public are welcome to attend our quarterly Council of Governors' meetings to receive an update on how the Trust is performing, hear about Governors' activities and see presentations from Trust staff.

We welcome questions from the public or members of the Trust; these should be addressed to the Chair along with confirmation of attendance at the meeting and sent to hdft.nhsfoundationtrust@nhs.net no less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.



[Click here for
information on our
Council of Governor
Meetings](#)



Foundation Trust

If you have a particular question or comment on what's working well or what you feel needs addressing, you can contact your Governors here:



[Foundation
Trust](#)



Patient Experience

If you have a particular question, or comment on what's working well from your own patient experience, or what could be improved then you can contact the Patient Experience Team on:



[Patient
Experience](#)



Your Contact Details

If you have a question on membership, or would like to change your contact preferences, please contact hdft.membership@nhs.net or share the sign-up link for new members:



[New
Members](#)

Membership

Membership of the Trust gives you the opportunity to contribute to how we run Harrogate District Hospital as well as our community services across North Yorkshire and beyond. At the same time, you can learn more about key health issues and the NHS. It is important that we stay in touch with what people want from our services and you can be involved in helping to improve and shape the future of these services.

As a member, you can choose the extent to which you engage with HDFT:

- Gain information to help improve the understanding of how the local health care system works and is changing
- Share your experience and views on services to help
- Shape future design
- Volunteer or work with the Trust
- Vote for Governors who will represent your interests

Additionally, all members are eligible to be part of the Health Discounts Scheme, saving money on travel, shopping, insurance, motoring and receive NHS discounts, offers & codes:



[Click here for Health Services Discount](#)

News

Hear all about the latest hospital news and updates on our website.

We have some really interesting news articles that may be of interest to our members. We recommend taking a look at the following stories:

- Day Case Surgery and Imaging Centre
- Refurbishment works to the hospital and grounds
- Green Plan - tree planting and wildflowers
- The new Domestic Robot
- The launch of our Research and Innovation Hub
- Updates on our HDFT Impact Continuous Improvement



[Click here for HDFT News](#)



YOU ARE INVITED TO

HHCC 30th Birthday BALL

Harrogate Hospital
& Community Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1050008

30 years of enhancing care

FR Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

When?

Friday 17 October 2025



Where?

Double Tree by Hilton,
Harrogate Majestic
Hotel and Spa, HG1 2HU

What time?

From 7pm - Midnight

How much?

£65.00pp

Including a drinks reception
and a three-course meal

**BOOK
NOW**

Scan to
buy up to
10 tickets



Corporate Packages also available

What?

Three
course
meal

Welcome
drink on
arrival

Luxury
Silent
Auction

Black
Tie

Slight of
hand
magician

DJ and
Dancefloor

Why?

WE'RE BRINGING AI TO CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Your ticket to the Ball will fund the introduction of AI algorithm
software to aide quicker and more effective cancer diagnosis

We will:

- ✓ Reduce testing costs
- ✓ Reduce analysis times by over 65%
- ✓ Provide a confirmed diagnosis to patients up to 6 days quicker!



SCAN ME



NHS
Harrogate and District
NHS Foundation Trust



Email Us
hdft.hhcc@nhs.net



Call Us
01423 557408



Visit Our Website
www.hhcc.co.uk



www.hhcc.co.uk



[@harrogatehospitalcharity](https://www.instagram.com/harrogatehospitalcharity)



[@harrogatehospitalcharity](https://www.facebook.com/harrogatehospitalcharity)



[harrogatehospitalcommunitycharity](https://www.linkedin.com/company/harrogatehospitalcommunitycharity)



[@harrogatehospitalcharity](https://www.tiktok.com/@harrogatehospitalcharity)



[@GSILFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/GSILFoundation)



[@GreatStartInLifeFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/GreatStartInLifeFoundation)

Looking for a vocation not just a job?



Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) and Harrogate Integrated Facilities (HIF) colleagues are rightfully proud of the organisation they work for and they are keen to encourage others to join #teamHDFT.

A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes to attract and recruit candidates with the right skills, relevant experience and who value kindness, integrity, teamwork and equality.

Our career opportunities and events are promoted via Facebook and LinkedIn. Trust colleagues and members can help by sharing messages so they reach potential candidates, especially those that may not be job hunting.

The NHS has 350 different careers, many of which are on offer here at HDFT. The Trust provides a full induction and training package to support new starters so that they can fulfil the role to the best of their abilities.

Want to know more about our current opportunities? Visit www.hdft.nhs.uk/careers for the latest HDFT opportunities.

Keep up to date with the latest news and information on events around the Trust through our social media.



<https://www.facebook.com/HarrogateDistrictNHS/>



www.linkedin.com/company/harrogate-and-district-nhs-foundation-trust



<https://www.instagram.com/harrogatenhs/>

HDFT Member Contact

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Corporate Affairs Office
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Email: hdft.membership@nhs.net