



What is a Foundation Trust?

NHS Foundation Trusts are a revolutionary type of organisation. They remain part of the NHS and provide services to NHS patients according to NHS principles – free healthcare, based on need rather than the ability to pay – but have more independence to run themselves, more control over their own future and more flexibility to work with the local community to determine needs and provide required solutions.

NHS Foundation Trust status is a fantastic achievement. It confirms that the people of Stockport and the High Peak have one of the country's most successful hospital trusts on their doorstep. The benefits of NHS Foundation status include:

- patients, staff, local people and partner organisations being more involved in developing healthcare services
- members influencing decisions at the highest level and having their voices heard
- having greater control over how we spend our money
- being able to develop new services more quickly than before.

What we stand for

The Trust is responsible for improving the health of people in Stockport and the High Peak, commissioning services at Cherry Tree and Stepping Hill Hospitals, and developing primary care and community services.

Our new status is a direct reflection of the high standard of patient care that we deliver and a demonstration of our commitment to providing services for our patients and their carers that improve health, treat disease and promote independence. To do this we will:

- organise and provide services around the needs of patients and their carers
- strive for the highest standards of clinical excellence
- work in partnership with Primary Care and other agencies
- value and respect our employees
- establish effective methods of communication and involvement
- strive for a culture of lifelong learning and continuous professional development.

Becoming a member

Any individual over the age of 16 who lives in our catchment area can become a member of the Trust. Membership is free. All permanent employees of Stockport NHS Foundation Trust will automatically become members.

We want all our members to enjoy their involvement with the hospital; therefore we leave it up to each individual to decide the level of input that they contribute. However, we actively encourage members to support, contribute and influence the hospital on development issues and future plans. Typically, we offer members the chance to:

- receive information about the hospital throughout the year
- contribute ideas about the way the hospital runs, and make suggestions for improvements

The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is a group of nominated and elected members that will meet at regular intervals. Its main roles are to:

- oversee the Trusts' activities
- act as guardians for the Trusts' values, standards and direction
- provide a forum for all members to contribute their input
- provide information on its activities to the members.

The Trust has 39 Governors on the Board. Of these, 26 are representatives elected from the public and from staff by members of the Trust. The remaining 13 are appointed by partnership organisations, including Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Stockport and High Peak Primary Care Trusts, the voluntary sector, the education sector and other local bodies.

- join special interest groups, and attend 'behind the scenes' exclusive events to gain an inside view of the hospital
- share with the hospital the needs and expectations of the local community
- vote for, or stand for election to, the Board of Governors to represent the views of the members
- be consulted on the activities of, and attend open meetings for, the Board of Governors.

To **register as a member** of the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, please complete the form overleaf.

To **find out more**, please contact the Membership Office on 0161 419 5166 or 0161 419 5164.

To **withdraw your membership** at anytime, please email foundation@stockport.nhs.uk

Other things to note...

- Members do not get any preferential NHS treatment, and they receive the same care as non-members
- Members must complete and sign one form per person, and return in the Freepost envelope provided
- Individuals may become members of more than one NHS Foundation Trust
- We will not share your details outside of the NHS. However, if you are elected as a Governor we will need to publish your name
- There is no charge for membership
- Members must be at least 16 years old.

