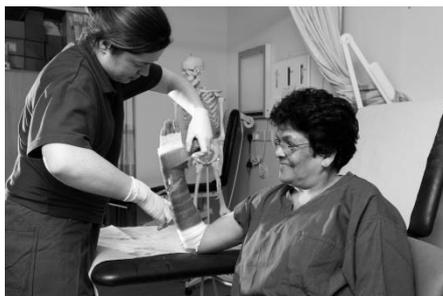




# Could you help lead the NHS in your area?

## Non-executive Director Candidate information pack

**Reference: N1638**



**We value and promote diversity and are committed to equality of opportunity for all and appointments made on merit. We believe that the best boards are those that reflect the communities they serve.**

**We particularly welcome applications from women, people from the local black and minority ethnic communities, and disabled people who we know are under-represented in chair and non-executive roles.**

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## 1. The Opportunity

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS) provides 24 hour, 365 days a year urgent and emergency care and patient transport services to those in need. Their highly skilled staff provide life-saving care and clinical advice to patients in the community and take people to hospital or a place of care if needed.

We are looking for a new Non-executive Director (NED) to share their talents and expertise to help transform NWAS and make a positive difference to the lives of people in their community.

## 2. The Person Specification

### Essential Criteria

You will need to have a genuine commitment to patients and the promotion of excellent health care services.

You will have senior or board level experience, with a demonstrable track record of delivering quality improvement at a strategic level. You will also have experience in the health and social care sectors and be from a medical, nursing, clinical or social care background (preferably in accident and emergency care).

An understanding of the current quality agenda in the NHS and the assurance processes needed to deliver effective clinical governance would also be an advantage. The successful candidate will chair the Trust's Quality Committee.

You will need to be able to demonstrate you can use your experience to:

- work alongside other non-executives and executive colleagues as an equal member of the board
- bring independence, external perspectives, skills and challenge to strategy development
- hold the executive to account by providing purposeful, constructive scrutiny and challenge
- shape and actively support a healthy culture for the trust

All non-executive directors must **champion the standards of public life** – by upholding the highest standards of conduct and displaying the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

As a future NHS leader, the successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the range of behaviours required to contribute effectively in this board level role. These are outlined in the NHS Leadership Academy's [Healthcare Leadership Model](#).

Applicants should live in or have strong connections with the North West.

- On average this role will require the equivalent to 2 to 3 days a month.
- The remuneration payable for this role is £6,157 pa.

Given the significant public profile and responsibility members of NHS Boards hold, it is vital that those appointed inspire confidence of the public, patients and NHS staff at all times. NHS Improvement makes a number of specific background checks to ensure that those we appoint are “fit and proper” people to hold these important roles. More information can be found on our [website](#).

### **3. About North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust**

One of the largest ambulance trusts in England, NWAS provides services to a population of around seven million people across a geographical area of approximately 5,400 square miles. The Trust handles over a million emergency calls each year and undertakes approximately three million patient journeys. Within this total, around 1.4 million patient journeys are undertaken by their non-emergency service for patients travelling to hospitals and other healthcare centres for treatment.

The Trust employs just over 6,000 staff who operate from over 100 sites across the region and provide services for patients in a combination of rural and urban communities, in coastal resorts, affluent areas and in some of the most deprived inner city areas in the country. NWAS also provide services to a significant transient population of tourists, students and commuters.

The North West region is one of the most culturally diverse areas in England, with over 50 different languages spoken by members of the community. Consequently, the Trust places considerable emphasis on equality and diversity and public engagement activities to ensure that their services are accessible to all members of the community.

#### **Vision and Aims**

The Trust’s ambition and vision is to be the best ambulance service in the UK by providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place, every time for all patients who access its services.

In order to achieve this for 2017/20, the Trust set out its approach to make sure clinical decisions are taken early in the patient journey to ensure no patient is needlessly waiting. The five principles that will support the approach are as follows:



The Trust's values, based on the NHS Culture of Caring values, form the foundation of and drive the whole organisation, ensuring they lead by example and create the right culture and conditions for patients to receive safe care every time:



## Appendix 1: Role and Responsibilities

### Role of the NHS Board

NHS Boards play a key role in shaping the strategy, vision and purpose of an organisation. They hold the organisation to account for the delivery of strategy and ensure value for money. They are also responsible for assuring that risks to the organisation and the public are managed and mitigated effectively. Led by an independent chair and composed of a mixture of both executive and independent non-executive members, the Board has a collective responsibility for the performance of the organisation.

The purpose of NHS Boards is to govern effectively, and in so doing build patient, public and stakeholder confidence that their health and healthcare is in safe hands. This fundamental accountability to the public and stakeholders is delivered by building confidence:

- in the quality and safety of health services
- that resources are invested in a way that delivers optimal health outcomes
- in the accessibility and responsiveness of health services
- that patients and the public can help to shape health services to meet their needs
- that public money is spent in a way that is fair, efficient, effective and economic.

### Roles and responsibilities of the non-executive director

Non-executive directors will work alongside other non-executives and executive directors as an equal member of the Board. They share responsibility with the other directors for the decisions made by the Board and for success of the organisation in leading the local improvement of healthcare services for patients. Non-executives use their skills and personal experience as a member of their community to:

- **Formulate plans and strategy**
  - bringing independence, external perspectives, skills, and challenge to strategy development
- **Ensure accountability**
  - holding the executive to account for the delivery of strategy
  - providing purposeful, constructive scrutiny and challenge

- chairing or participating as a member of key committees that support accountability
- being accountable individually and collectively for the effectiveness of the Board
- **Shape culture and capability**
  - actively supporting and promoting a healthy culture for the organisation which is reflected in their own behaviour
  - providing visible leadership in developing a healthy culture so that staff believe NEDs provide a safe point of access to the Board for raising concerns
  - ensuring the directors of the Board are 'fit and proper' for the role and champion an open, honest and transparent culture within the organisation
- **Context**
  - mentoring less experienced NEDs where relevant
- **Process, structures and intelligence**
  - satisfying themselves of the integrity of reporting mechanisms, and financial and quality intelligence including getting out and about, observing and talking to patients and staff
  - providing analysis and constructive challenge to information on organisational and operational performance
- **Engagement**
  - ensuring that the Board acts in best interests of patients and the public
  - being available to staff if there are unresolved concerns
  - showing commitment to working with key partners

In particular the responsibilities of non-executive directors are to:

- commit to working to, and encouraging within the Trust, the highest standards of probity, integrity and governance and contribute to ensuring that the Trust's internal governance arrangements conform with best practice and statutory requirements

- provide independent judgement and advice on issues of strategy, vision, performance, resources and standards of conduct and constructively challenge, influence and help the executive board develop proposals on such strategies to enable the organisation to fulfil its leadership responsibilities to patients, for healthcare of the local community
- ensure that patients and service users are treated with dignity and respect at all times, and that the patient is central to trust decision making
- ensure that the Board sets challenging objectives for improving its performance across the range of its functions
- structure the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives
- in accordance with agreed board procedures, monitor the performance and conduct of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and statutory responsibilities, including the preparation of annual reports and annual accounts and other statutory duties
- ensure that financial information is accurate and that financial controls and risk management systems are robust and defensible and that the Board is kept fully informed through timely and relevant information (you may be asked to sit on the audit committee on behalf of the Board)
- accept accountability to the NHS Improvement for the delivery of the organisation's objectives and ensure that the Board acts in the best interests of patients and its local community
- contribute to the determination of appropriate levels of remuneration for executive directors
- participate in the audit committee and take an active part in other committees (including the investment and remuneration committees) established by the Board of directors to exercise delegated responsibility
- as a member of board committees, appoint, remove, support, encourage and where appropriate "mentor" senior executives
- bring independent judgement and experience from outside the Trust and apply this to the benefit of the Trust, its stakeholders and its wider community

- assist fellow directors in providing entrepreneurial leadership to the Trust within a framework of prudent and effective controls, which enable risk to be assessed and managed
- assist fellow directors in setting the Trust's values and standards and ensure that its obligations to its stakeholders and the wider community are understood and fairly balanced at all times
- ensure that the organisation values diversity in its workforce and demonstrates equality of opportunity in its treatment of staff and patients and in all aspects of its business
- engage positively and collaboratively in board discussion of agenda items and act as an ambassador for the Trust in engagement with stakeholders including patients and the local community, dealing with the media when appropriate.

## **Appendix 2: More Information**

For information about the Trust, such as business plans, annual reports, and services, visit their [website](#).

Follow the [link](#) for more information about:

**Becoming a non-executive director**

**Eligibility and disqualification from appointment**

**Terms and conditions of chair and non-executive director appointments**

**How your application will be handled**

**Your personal information**

**Dealing with concerns**

## Appendix 3: Making an Application

If you wish to be considered for this role please provide:

- a CV that includes your address and contact details, highlighting and explaining any gaps in your employment history
- a supporting statement that highlights your motivation for applying and your understanding of the NHS and the role. You should outline your personal responsibility and achievement within previous roles and how your experience matches the person specification
- the names, positions, organisations and contact details for three referees. Your referees should be individuals in a line management capacity, and cover your most recent employer, any regulated health or social care activity or where roles involved children or vulnerable adults. Your references will be taken prior to interview and may be shared with the selection panel
- please complete and return the monitoring information form which accompanies this pack and is available for download
- tell us about any dates when you will not be available

### Key dates

- **closing date for receipt of applications: 11am on 20 February 2018.** Please forward your completed application to [public.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:public.appointments@nhs.net)
- **interview date: 5 March 2018.** On the interview day shortlisted candidates will also have the opportunity to have a 15 minute meet and greet with the Trust's Medical Director and Quality Director.
- **proposed start date: March/April 2018**

### Getting in touch

- For an informal and confidential discussion with Wyn Dignan, the Chair of the Trust, please contact the NWAS Corporate Governance team on 01204 498413
- **NHS Improvement** – for general enquiries contact Miriam Walker on 0300 123 2059 or by emailing [miriam.walker@nhs.net](mailto:miriam.walker@nhs.net)

## About NHS Improvement

NHS Improvement is responsible for overseeing Foundation Trusts, NHS Trusts and independent providers. We offer the support these providers need to give patients consistently safe, high quality, compassionate care within local health systems that are financially sustainable. By holding providers to account and, where necessary, intervening, we help the NHS to meet its short-term challenges and secure its future.

NHS Improvement is the operational name for the organisation that brings together Monitor, NHS Trust Development Authority, Patient Safety, the National Reporting and Learning System, the Advancing Change team and the Intensive Support Teams.

## Contact us

NHS Improvement  
Non-executive Appointments Team  
Room 2C18  
Quarry House  
Leeds LS2 7UE

E: [public.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:public.appointments@nhs.net)  
W: [improvement.nhs.uk](http://improvement.nhs.uk)