Meet our Non-executive Directors



Non-executive Director and Vice Chair: Martin Sykes

Martin studied chemistry at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he obtained a PhD and spent a number of years working in post-doctoral research. He later qualified as an accountant and joined the NHS in 1995. Martin worked most recently at Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust as finance director and deputy chief executive. Within the NHS Martin has also held executive responsibility for procurement; information management and technology; information governance; contracting; and strategy.

Martin is chair of the Finance & Digital Committee and vice chair of the Board.

Start date: 4 September 2017



Non-executive Director: Bernard Galton

Bernard has had a long and successful Civil Service career with 28 years in the Ministry of Defence, and 10 years in the Welsh Government. He retired in 2014 from his role as director general.

With more than 20 years of executive Board experience, he has complemented this with non-executive directorships in the Royal National Mineral Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases Foundation Trust, Capita

Property Services in Wales, and he is currently a non-executive director of the Board of Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. Whilst in the Welsh Government, Bernard led a large corporate services department spanning human resources, learning and development, information services, property, facilities, health and safety and security.

He was head of profession for human resources and organisation development for all Public Service organisations in Wales, and also worked at the highest level in NHS Wales gaining an understanding of the key strategic issues facing health and social care services.

He is a Chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and lives in Bath.

Bernard is chair of the People Committee.

Start date: 1 July 2019



Non-executive Director: Sue Balcombe

Sue is a registered nurse with more than 35 years of experience within the NHS and significant NHS board experience at an executive level. In 2005 she was Director of Nursing at Taunton Deane Primary Care Trust followed by Chief Nurse at Somerset Community Health. Following a merger and acquisition in 2015, she became Chief Nurse at Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust bringing together community and mental health services within an integrated trust.

Sue has extensive and varied clinical experience principally in urgent and emergency care and community care, assuming leadership roles in each. She brings significant experience in service integration and system redesign having played a clinical leadership role within Somerset STP prior to her retirement in 2018.

Prior to joining the Board Sue was a Non-executive Director at Weston Area Health NHS Trust and a non-executive director (designate) at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust.

Start date: 1 April 2020



Non-executive Director: Professor Jane Norman

Professor Jane Norman has been Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Bristol since June 2019. She was the academic lead for diversity and inclusion at the University of Edinburgh and in addition, she was a Non-Executive Director of the Equality Challenge Unit from 2014 until it was absorbed into Advance HE in 2018. She has held executive roles in many other organisations, including the Academy of Medical Sciences and (currently) the Medical Schools Council.

She has a strong background in health research, spanning the full range of research activity, from discovery (basic laboratory and preclinical

studies) through early phase clinical trials to phase III/IV studies and analysis of large epidemiological datasets. She has over 250 peer-reviewed publications. She also has 35 years of experience as a hospital clinician in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Jane was appointed as a Non-executive Director of the Trust on 1 March 2021. Jane is the Chair of the Audit Committee.

Start date: 1 March 2021



Non-executive Director: Marc Griffiths

Marc is the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences at the University of the West of England, Bristol. He has responsibility for approximately 10,500 students across Health and Social Care, Applied Sciences and Social Sciences at all levels of education from foundation degree through to doctoral level. He also has overall responsibility for circa 450 staff and work with a number of external partners across the city and region of Bristol and beyond.

Marc's research and knowledge exchange areas include exploring the development of hybrid practitioners within healthcare and education, Leadership redesign for Allied Health Professions, EDI work and service provision mapping.

Marc was appointed as a Non-executive Director of the Trust on 1 July 2022.

Start date: 1 July 2022



Non-executive Director: Roy Shubhabrata

Roy has spent the last two decades focused on digital transformation in healthcare across Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. His interest lies is in the collaboration of government, academia, charities and providers in the adoption of innovative technologies in health and care settings.

Roy is the Chief Executive of Healthinnova, an international health technology solutions company based in Bath. He is a Trustee of Age UK, the country's leading charity focused on older people, as well as HelpAge

International UK, which focuses on ageing issues in low and middle-income countries.

Roy was appointed as a Non-executive Director of the Trust on 1 July 2022.

Start date: 1 July 2022



Non-executive Director: Arabel Bailey

Arabel brings 30 years experience of technology-driven transformation in the private sector, across a wide range of industries. She is an experienced business leader and has held numerous senior executive positions in the areas of Technology, Digital Transformation and Innovation.

She is also a Non-Executive Director at the Department for Work and Pensions working as part of their Transformation Advisory Committee. She provides expertise and insight around modernising and transforming the Department's citizen services.

Arabel has long been a champion for diversity and inclusion and for the need to bring a better gender balance to the technology industry. She is recognised as a role model in this area and has received industry recognition for her leadership roles.

Arabel was appointed as an Associate Non-executive Director of the Trust on 1 July 2022 and a Non-executive Director of the trust on 1 July 2023.

Start date: 1 July 2022



Non-executive Director: Dr Rosie Benneyworth

Rosie has been Chief Investigator at Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) since August 2022. Rosie was a GP and clinical commissioner in Somerset for many years, and prior to her role with HSIB, she was Chief Inspector for Primary and Integrated Care and the CQC. Rosie also spent two years as Managing Director of Southwest

Academic Health Science Network during which time she led the national patient safety collaboratives. She was a Non-Executive Director and Vice Chair of the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence and is also a Trustee of the Nuffield Trust and National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain.

Start date: 1 July 2023



Associate Non-executive Director: Emma Glynn

Emma is a Senior Director and Head of Healthcare Advisory at JLL UK, a professional services firm specialising in real estate and investment management. She is a Non-Executive Director at not-for-profit care provider Somerset Care.

Emma joined King Sturge in 2002 as a Graduate Trainee, progressing to a Senior Associate and joining the Healthcare Division on its formation in 2006. King Sturge merged with JLL in 2011 and Emma was appointed

Director two years later. Emma is a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a Registered Valuer.

Start Date: 1 July 2023



Associate Non-executive Director: Susan Hamilton

Susan has spent over 20 years in public health in the NHS, local government and charity sector and is currently Director of Public Health for North Northamptonshire Council. She is also a Board member and Vice Chair of the social housing and support provider Taff Housing.

Susan spent her earlier career in public health and management research roles at the University of Bristol and the University of Birmingham. She then completed NHS speciality training and has held Consultant in Public Health roles in several organisations including NHS North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Council. Susan has also worked in the charity sector in the role of Executive Director for Strategic Development at the Royal Osteoporosis Society.

Susan holds a BSc (Hons) in Medical Microbiology, a Master of Public Health and an MBA. She is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health and has served on the National Institute for Health Research Public Health Research Prioritisation Committee.

Start date: 1 July 2023