

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: 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: 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 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



Non-executive Director: Anne Tutt

Anne is a qualified Chartered Accountant (FCA) with more than 30 years' experience at Board level. In her early career she held commercial finance director roles for Rediffusion PLC, Adas Holdings Ltd, Arval PHH and R L Polk Europe where she specialised in buyouts, turnarounds & restructuring. Anne's non-executive experience includes board roles for the Social Investment Business Foundation Group, DEFRA's Animal and Plant Health Agency and Her Majesty's Passport Office where she was also Chair of Audit Committee and DFID. Between 2009 and November 2023, Anne was Non-Executive Director of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, where she was also over time Vice Chair, Senior Independent Director, Chair of Audit and Risk Committee and Chair of Investment Committee. Anne is currently a Trustee and Chair of the Finance Committee of Pancreatic Cancer UK, Trustee and Chair of Audit and Risk Committee at Action Aid UK, and Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Strategy Committee of Swansea University, a Trustee and Chair of the Finance & risk Committee at Katharine House Hospice Trust and a Trustee and Chair of the Audit Committee at Oxford Hospitals Charity.



Non-executive Director: Linda Kennedy

Linda is passionate about the power of People in driving success in organisations. She has over 40 years of HR experience, working internationally across various geographies and covering many sectors, such as oil and gas, mining, support services, advertising, distribution, telecommunications and manufacturing. During her executive career, she has operated in both public PLC and PE backed organisations, having successfully led business change programmes delivering growth and improving performance. Roles of note include VP People and Chief Change Officer for EE during the merger of Orange and T Mobile, delivering transformation when Group HR Director of SIG plc, a FTSE 250 business for 5 years and laterally driving value as Chief HR Officer of kp films, a large PE backed manufacturing business. As well an established skillset in Organisation Design and Employee Engagement, Linda brings strong experience in ESG, specifically D,E & I, Well Being and Communications, having led this agenda in several organisations. She is a qualified coach and takes a pragmatic approach, using key metrics to drive desired outcomes. Linda

speaks several languages including French, German and Spanish and is a Master of the Institute of Linguists. Having originally studied at Napier University, Linda is now a Fellow of the CIPD.

From a non Exec perspective previously, Linda was a Member of Sheffield Hallam University Business School Advisory Board from 2015 to 2020 and is currently a Non Exec Director/Trustee of NEBOSH (the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health).

Linda lives in a converted Barn in Berkshire, and enjoys travel, horse riding, keeping fit, theatre and live concerts.



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