

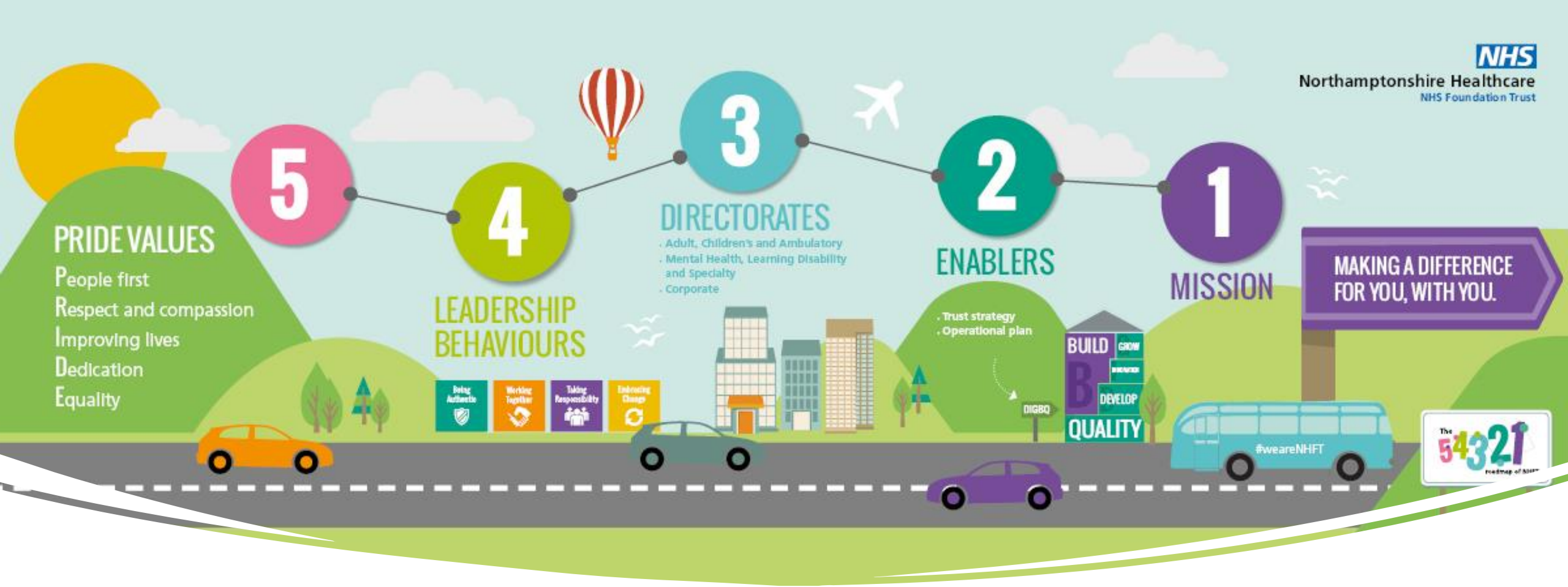
#weareNHFT

# A Pledge to Commitment: Embodying the essence of the statutory duties of the Council of Governors

NHS Providers Governor Focus

9 July 2024

MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE,  
FOR YOU,  
WITH YOU.



# Every governor made a pledge

- To show members how they **make a difference**
- To identify opportunities to **work together**
- To highlight where they need **support**

# Pledges were linked to Governors' statutory duties

Attend an event  
Recruit members  
Record a video  
Attend a conference  
Join a webinar  
Write an article  
Join a committee  
Visit a service

- We asked Governors to pledge their commitment to:
  - Holding NEDs to account
  - Representing Members and the public
- We sought practical commitments that could be achieved within the year
- Governors made a pledge based on:
  - what matters most to them?
  - what are they willing/able to do?
- We provided some ideas such as attending specific meetings, attending events or contributing to particular pieces of work.
- Governors also generated their own ideas

# Pledges increased governor engagement and visibility within the Trust

- 19 Governors made over 100 pledges.
- Some Governors over committed and could not achieve all their pledges.
- Governors have requested more regular reminders of progress against pledges.
- Progress reported via Council of Governors and included in 23/24 Annual Report and Accounts.
- Pledges should be flexible and should be able to be changed in year if required.
- Governors felt a sense of achievement by completing their pledges.



# The lessons we learnt have informed our plans for this year

1. Encourage Governors to be realistic with what they can give to the role
2. Introduce the process at induction
3. Simplify our approach to make it easier for Governors
4. Link each pledge to one of the Council's objectives – e.g., a membership priority
5. Celebrate successes to encourage and inspire Governors

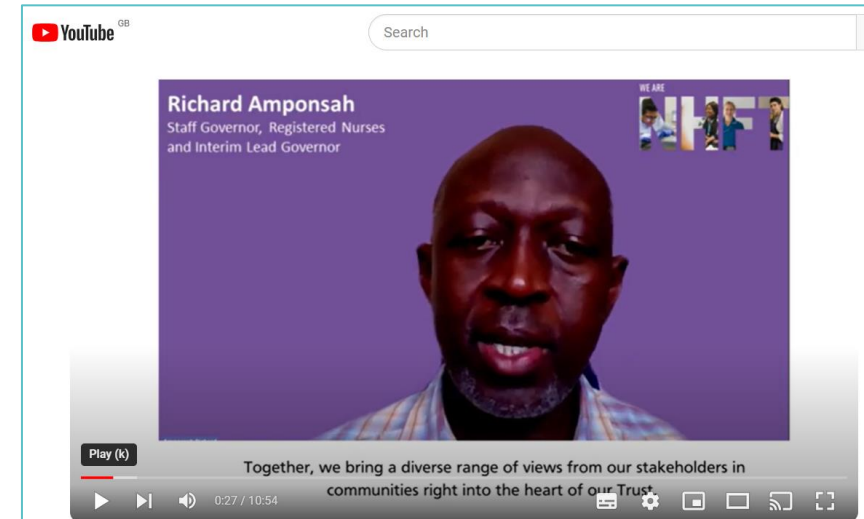
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# Here are some examples of Governor pledges...

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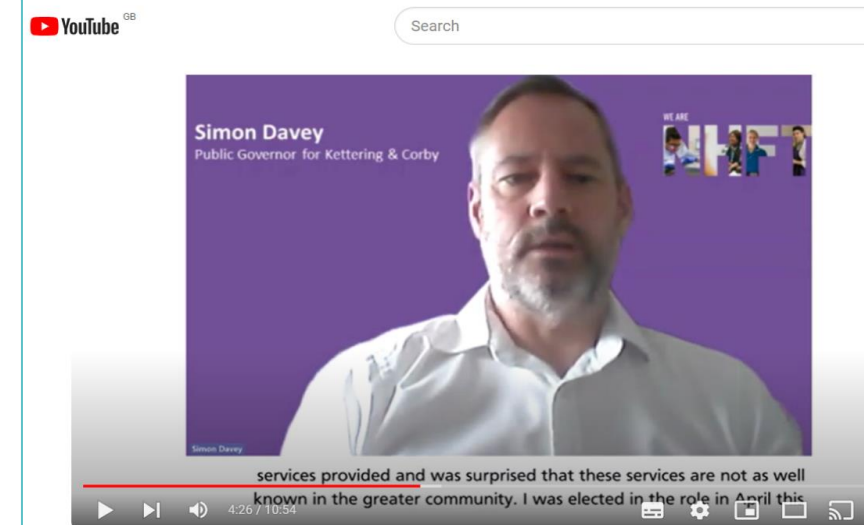
# Practical examples: Governor Video

- A Governor video is filmed each year as part of the Annual Public and Members meeting
- Several Governors volunteered to take part and explain the work of the Council of Governors undertaken during the previous financial year
- The video was also used on the Governor Elections page of website (to help candidates understand the role of the Council of Governors)



NHFT's Council of Governors 2023

Unlisted



NHFT's Council of Governors 2023

Unlisted

# Practical examples: Meeting with Youth Advisory Board

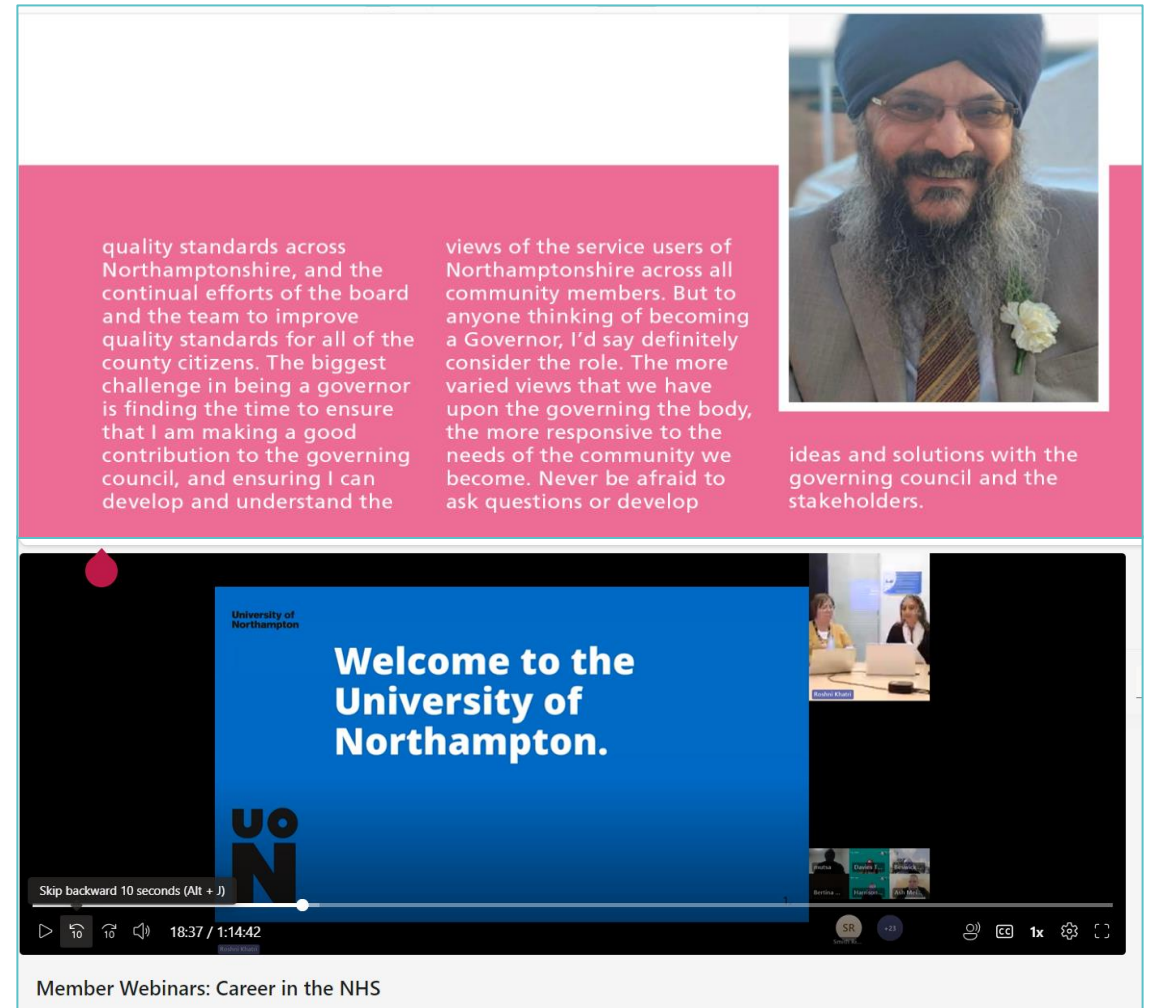
- One of the Trust's Membership, Engagement and Representation priorities is to improve engagement and representation with children and young people.
- Several Governors attended the Trust's Youth Advisory Board in autumn 2023 to speak to the young people about the Governor role as one of their pledges.
- We now expect this activity to develop and become a regular dialogue between the two groups into the future.





# Practical examples: Contribute to Member Bulletin/Webinars

- The Member Bulletin is distributed twice a year to all members.
- Several webinars are also held throughout the year.
- This was therefore an opportunity for Governors to get involved either with content for the Bulletin or direct involvement with webinars.
- The Appointed Governor from the University of Northampton helped lead a webinar on Careers in the NHS.



quality standards across Northamptonshire, and the continual efforts of the board and the team to improve quality standards for all of the county citizens. The biggest challenge in being a governor is finding the time to ensure that I am making a good contribution to the governing council, and ensuring I can develop and understand the

views of the service users of Northamptonshire across all community members. But to anyone thinking of becoming a Governor, I'd say definitely consider the role. The more varied views that we have upon the governing the body, the more responsive to the needs of the community we become. Never be afraid to ask questions or develop

ideas and solutions with the governing council and the stakeholders.

University of Northampton  
**Welcome to the University of Northampton.**

SR +23

Member Webinars: Career in the NHS

# View from a Governor

Richard Amponsah, Staff Governor and Interim Lead Governor will now provide his thoughts and feedback on submitting pledges.



# Tops Tips for embedding in your Trust

1. Think about the potential list of activities you could include in your pledges linked to the two core statutory duties of Governors.
2. Encourage fellow Governors to make realistic pledges aligned to the time they have available
3. Make sure pledges are logged and tracked throughout the year
4. Don't forget to encourage photographs and other evidence (especially if attending an event) so you can celebrate successes and inform members via your communications on progress
5. Could you identify ambassadors within your Council who could help support all Governors to achieve their pledges?

# Questions

**Do you have any questions for us?**

