

Birmingham Children's Hospital
Foundation Trust
Membership Application Form



Share Our Future

An Invitation to Join Birmingham Children's Hospital Foundation Trust

This is an exciting time for BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL and we want you to be part of it. We want to become an NHS Foundation Trust in 2006 and would like your help.

As a Foundation Trust we will remain part of the NHS, but we will have more independence and some extra freedoms. This will allow us to deliver healthcare in a way that best suits local people. Through joining our Register of Members, local people can be part of our future and have a greater say in how the hospital services are run and developed.

If you are a patient, a carer, a member of staff, or if you live in the communities we serve, then you can be part of our success. We want to involve all our communities, especially children and young people, as we believe they have an important contribution to make in helping us improve the service we give to people of their age.

Please read the attached information and if you are interested in helping us, then complete and return the Membership form. It costs nothing to become a Member and there is no minimum time commitment, you can get as involved as you want.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we look forward to hearing from you.



Jo Davis

Joanna Davis - Chairman

Web: www.bch.org.uk

Email: foundation-trust.office@bch.nhs.uk

About Us

Birmingham Children's Hospital provides a unique range of services which is unrivalled in this country, to children, young people and their families, and employs over 2,600 people.

We have achieved a 3 star rating (the highest possible level) for the last two years. This means we have balanced our books, reduced waiting times and met all the Government's targets. This rating has enabled us to apply for Foundation Trust status in 2006.

In 2005/6 we provided care for over 200,000 patients and had a turnover of £142m. This included:

45,832	Accident and Emergency Attendances
10,775	Inpatient Emergencies
17,527	Planned Inpatients and Day Cases
110,857	Out Patients
15,000	Other Community Contacts

What is an NHS Foundation Trust?

NHS Foundation Trusts are a new kind of NHS organisation called Public Benefit Corporations. They remain part of the NHS but they let staff and local people influence how the hospital is run. They still work to national standards and inspection, but they are free to manage their own finances and make their own decisions through working more closely with their Members and Governors.

Finding out more? A Guide to NHS Foundation Trusts is available at: www.doh.gov.uk/nhsfoundationtrusts.

The Healthcare Commission's review of Foundation Trusts July 2005 is available at: www.healthcarecommission.org.uk. This report gives examples of how Foundation Trusts have been able to use their powers to improve patient care.

Why Become a Foundation Trust?

Becoming a Foundation Trust will help by:

- Giving us the freedom to focus on the needs and priorities of children and young people.
- Strengthening our links with local people and giving them a say in how the hospital is run.
- Creating capacity (ie, increasing the number of children we treat) to improve the health of the population we serve.

Becoming a Member

You can become a Member if:

- You live in Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire or Worcestershire.
- You are or have been a patient or carer of a patient of this hospital or
- You are an employee of the hospital.

We are especially keen to hear from children and young people.



Why Become a Member?

A strong Membership is an important way to maintain effective links with our staff and the local communities we serve. Members will be able to:

- Receive regular information about our hospital.
- Support, contribute to and influence future plans.
- Stand for election and vote in elections to the Council of Governors (only if you are aged 16 years or over). There will be a young person Governor to represent young people's views.
- Attend special meetings, events and behind-the-scenes tours.
- Take part in surveys and special projects about our services.

Membership is free and it is for each individual to decide the level of involvement they want.

To register as a Member all you need to do is:



Complete the form attached and return it to us in the envelope provided. No stamp is needed.

or



Email us your name, address and contact details at: foundation-trust.office@bch.nhs.uk or complete the online registration form at: www.bch.org.uk

or



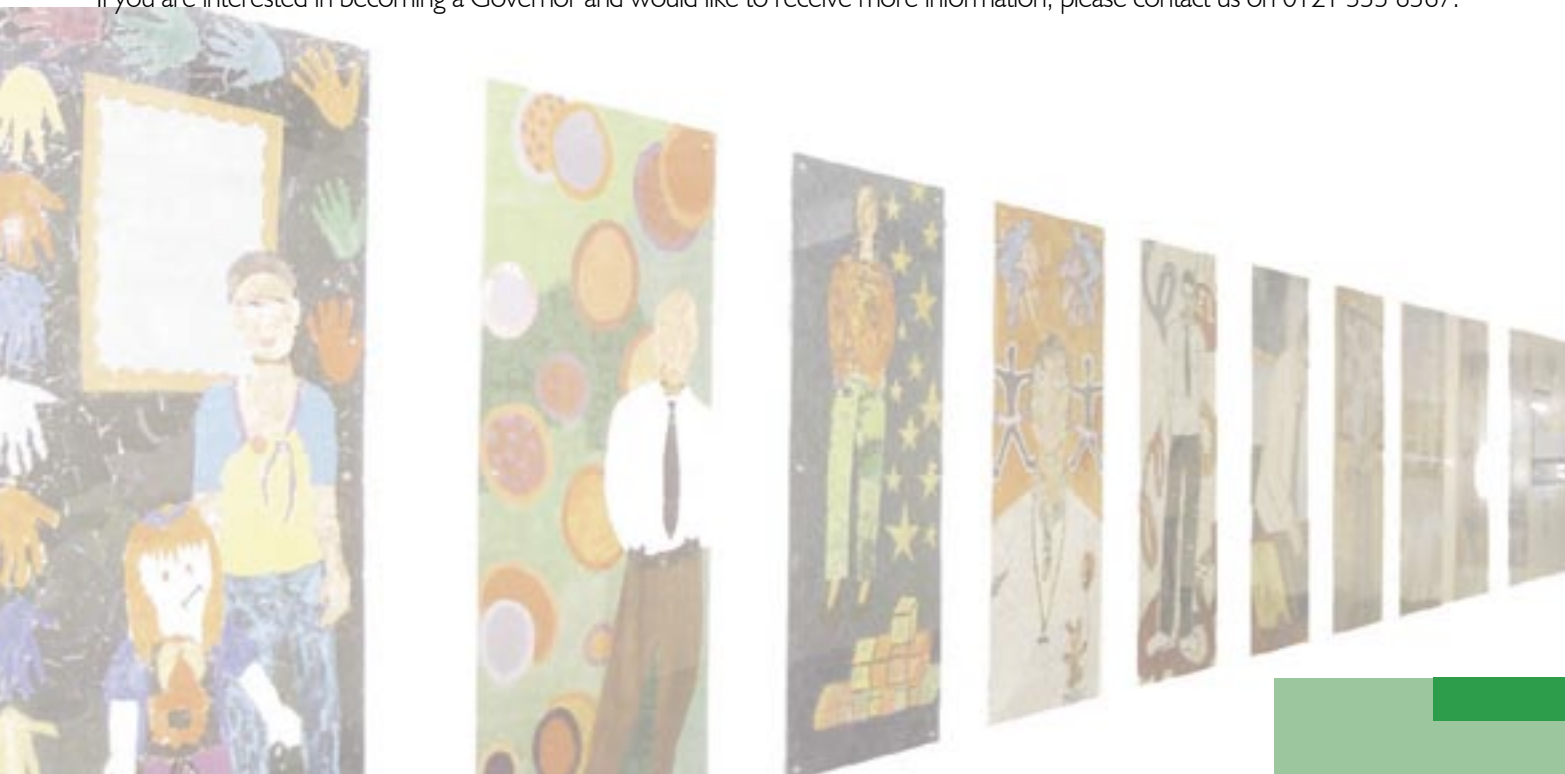
Call our Foundation Trust Office on 0121 333 8367.

You can withdraw your Membership at any time by calling the above telephone number.

Family and friends can also become Members by applying online at: www.bch.org.uk or by calling the Foundation Trust Office on the number above.

About the Council of Governors

This is a group of people elected by the Members to oversee our activities and provide information to you about our plans. If you are interested in becoming a Governor and would like to receive more information, please contact us on 0121 333 8367.



Membership - Details

- If you register as a Member your details will be entered onto our Register of Members. We will not share your personal details and will store your information in accordance with the Data Protection Act. We may in the future use another organisation to help us maintain our database on our behalf. They will only act upon our specific instructions and will also be legally bound by the Data Protection Act.
- Should you choose to withdraw your Membership, we will not hold on to your details or pass them on to other organisations.
- Members will receive the same care and treatment as anyone who chooses not to become a Member.
- You may become a Member of more than one Foundation Trust.
- Members must complete and sign one form per person and return it to us in the envelope provided, or register online at www.bch.org.uk

What you can do to help - Summary

If you are keen to help us there are many things you can do. You can:

Consider becoming a Member – Call us on 0121 333 8367 or email: foundation-trust.office@bch.nhs.uk or visit www.bch.org.uk

Come and work for us – job opportunities are listed on www.bch.org.uk, click on Recruitment.

Fundraising – If you would like to contribute through fundraising please contact our Fundraising Department on 0121 333 8506 or visit www.bch.org.uk, click on Fundraising.



If you would like any of this information in another language or format please contact us at the Foundation Trust Office 0121 333 8367