

## Shall we dance?

People from all walks of life and all professions become non-executives. You may have financial and commercial skills gained at a senior level in business, or have legal, human resources, marketing or customer relations expertise. Perhaps you run your own business, or work in a voluntary capacity in your local community.

Whatever your skills, you will also need the ability to think strategically and a commitment to the values of the NHS.

Interested? The Appointments Commission lists all current vacancies on its website. If there is no vacancy in your area, why not join our mailing list so that we can send you details of any appropriate future vacancies?

**[www.appointments.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.appointments.org.uk/vacancies)**

**e-mail: [info@appointments.org.uk](mailto:info@appointments.org.uk)**

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# Strictly Boardroom

**Non-executive directorships in the NHS**



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## **Across the country, hundreds of men and women use their professional and business skills as part-time, non-executive directors, helping to lead their local NHS.**

There are more than 300 NHS bodies in England responsible for our healthcare: strategic health authorities, primary care trusts, ambulance service trusts, mental health services trusts and acute hospital trusts.

Each of these has an influence on the health services we receive in our community and all of them need skilled and experienced local people to serve as non-executives on their governing boards.

As a non-executive director, you will be involved in making decisions that directly affect local healthcare services. You will be responsible for ensuring that the interests of patients come first and that services and finances are properly managed.

It is a rewarding and challenging role, one which allows you to use your professional expertise and experience to give something back to your local community.



## **A perfect partnership**

A typical NHS board comprises five executive directors who are paid employees of the organisation, including the chief executive and the finance director, and an equal or larger number of non-executive directors, including the non-executive chair.

### **NHS boards are expected to:**

- provide leadership;
- make decisions about healthcare services and ensure that staff, facilities and finances are managed properly;
- work together as a team and take responsibility if things go wrong, as well as when they go well;
- plan for the future so that services and patients' experiences can be improved.

### **As a non-executive director your responsibilities will be to:**

- help to set future strategy to improve healthcare services;
- make sure that the management team meets its performance targets;

- make sure that the finances of the organisation are managed properly with accurate information;
- help the board work in the public interest and keep patients and the public properly informed;
- serve on important board committees.

We ask you to devote around 2.5 days a month to your role as a non-executive. This will include preparing for and attending board meetings and committees. Your appointment will be for a fixed term of between two and four years, depending on the needs of the organisation.

Remuneration ranges from £6,005 to £12,941\* a year, depending on the particular role. A comprehensive induction programme supports you during your first year and further training will be provided as required. Help is also available with childcare and carer's costs where appropriate.

\*2008/09



**Tesse Akpeki**

Non-executive director,  
West London Mental  
Health Trust

***"Serving on an NHS board has brought benefits I never envisaged. I am more confident, more empathetic and understand the importance of making tough decisions, which has helped me in my own career. I would not exchange this experience for anything else."***



**Jagtar Singh** OBE

Non-executive director,  
East of England Ambulance  
Service NHS Trust

***"This has been a great opportunity to give back to my local community. I am passionate about equality and diversity and I enjoy having a leadership role and the chance to improve my trust's performance in this critical area."***



**Penny McCulloch**

Non-executive director  
and Audit Committee chair,  
Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust

***"I've lived in Kent all my life and the decisions the trust board takes affect my family and my local community. I feel a real sense of ownership in this role and I'm enjoying every minute of it."***



**Peter Race** MBE

Non-executive director,  
Redcar & Cleveland  
Primary Care Trust

***"I'm able to bring my experience as a retired private industry manager to enrich the debate and contribute to the quality of decision-making processes of my PCT. I find being a non-executive both demanding and rewarding."***