

BECOMING A MEMBER OF KETTERING GENERAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Anyone aged 16 or over can apply to become a Member of Kettering General Hospital and be involved in having more say on how hospital services are developed.

To help you decide on whether to apply to become a member, we have put together some frequently asked questions to assist you. If you have any further questions please telephone 01536 493400

1 Does it cost anything?

No, being a member of an NHS Foundation Trust is free.

2 Will I be financially responsible for any debts the Trust may have?

No, you will have no financial liabilities for the Trust. Just as you will not benefit financially from being a Member, or receive any special privileges in terms of treatment.

3 What are the benefits of becoming a member?

- You would have the opportunity to become more directly involved in the running of the hospital, as you would have the right to stand for election to the Members Council.
- You would be kept up-to-date with developments at the hospital, for example by a Members' newsletter and a Members' section on the hospital's website.
- Through different methods, such as questionnaires, focus groups and Council Members meetings, you would be able to let the Trust know what is important to you in relation to your health needs and services that you feel should be provided.
- You would be invited to attend Member lectures and presentations, where you will be kept up-to-date on health and hospital related matters.

4 What does a member do?

- Members can be involved to whatever degree they wish; some will only want to register their support for their local hospital, others will want to be kept informed of developments. Some will join focus groups to give their opinions on issues that matter to them and others will want to stand for election to the Members Council. However much or little you want to be involved is absolutely fine, the Trust and the Department of Health need to know that the local people who use the hospital want to be part of a Foundation Trust.
- The Membership application form asks you to let the Trust know what sort of involvement you want – please fill in the boxes that interest you.
- Only Members can vote in the elections for Council of Members – you choose who you want to represent your opinions on this group.

5 Why do you want so many details about me?

The Trust needs to make sure that members are representative of all sections of the community. This information allows the Trust to ensure that no groups are excluded.

6 Why encourage me to use email?

The Trust has a duty to use its income effectively; it is quicker and cheaper to send an email than it is to post a letter. The money saved can then be used for other things. However, it is more important for our Members to be informed using a method that works for them, so only choose the email option if it is convenient for you.