Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH) is a national centre of excellence in the provision of specialist children's health care, currently delivering the widest range of specialist care of any children's hospital in the UK. It is the only specialist Biomedical Research Centre for paediatrics, the largest centre in the UK for children and young people with heart or brain problems, and the largest centre in Europe for children and young people with cancer. It works in partnership with the UCL Institute of Child Health (ICH), part of University College London, and together they form the largest paediatric research and teaching centre in the UK.

The population of children and young people served by the hospital is characterised by those with multiple disabilities and/or health problems and rare and congenital (present at birth) conditions. Many children and young people need the help of different specialist teams and some children live with a chronic condition and are patients of the hospital throughout their childhood.

Our strategic plan sets out a programme of work to enable us to achieve our vision of being the leading children's hospital in the world and be recognised as such. It takes into account the changing political and economic landscape and seeks to define areas where the Trust can explore taking a more deliberate leadership role locally, regionally and nationally.

**Key facts**

The hospital receives over 255,000 patient visits (inpatient admissions or outpatient appointments) a year, and carries out approximately 18,800 operations each year.

The hospital has 383 patient beds. Many of the children and young people on our wards require high dependency care or are classed as ward intensive care, requiring one-to-one nursing.

Around 4,100 full-time and part-time staff work at the hospital. The ICH has around 600 staff. Many senior staff have roles in both organisations.

The hospital has approximately 50 paediatric specialties, the widest range of any hospital in the UK, which uniquely enables it to diagnose and pioneer treatments for children and young people with highly complex, rare or multiple conditions. It has 19 highly specialised national services.
1. **Trust Values and Expected Behaviours**

The Trust has developed the Always Values with our staff, patients and families. The Values characterise all that we do and our behaviours with our patients and families and each other in support GOSH’s ethos ‘the child first and always’. Our Always Values are that we are:

- Always Welcoming
- Always Helpful
- Always Expert
- Always One Team

Each value is underpinned by behaviourial standards and all staff, directors and councilors are expected to display these behaviours at all times.

2. **Job Summary**

Non-executive directors work alongside other non-executives and executive directors as an equal member of the Board. A NED at GOSH plays a crucial role in bringing an independent perspective to the Board in addition to any specific knowledge and skills.

The Board is collectively responsible for the success of the Trust, including delivering high standards of clinical and corporate governance, responsibility for financial viability, using resources effectively in line with financial controls and ensuring value for money.

3. **General responsibilities**

- Support the Chairman, Non-Executive Directors and Executive Directors in setting the strategic direction of the Trust;

- As a member of the Board, set the Trust’s values and standards. Uphold the Always Values of the Trust and champion an open, honest and transparent culture within the Board and the Trust;

- Ensure the Trust complies with the Terms of Authorisation, the Constitution and any other applicable legislation and regulations, including the maintenance of mandatory services and retention of property;

- Ensure that the organisation promotes human rights and equality and diversity for all its patients, staff and other stakeholders;

- Work positively and collaboratively with the Members’ Council to promote the success of the Trust.

- Set challenging objectives for maintaining and improving performance of the Trust and ensure effective implementation of the Board decisions by the Chief Executive and the senior management team;

- Hold the Chief Executive to account for the effective management and delivery of the organisation’s strategic aims and objectives, including achieving the Trust’s commitment to patients by improving the quality of care, patient and family experience and meeting targets for treatment;
• Ensure that quality and financial controls and systems of risk management are robust and that the Board is kept fully informed through timely and relevant information;

• Ensure, through the leadership of the Chief Executive, that reporting lines and accountabilities are robust and support the effective oversight of the organisation including the development of effective risk and performance management processes.

• Safeguard the good name and reputation of the Trust and be an ambassador for the Hospital. Represent the Trust with international, national, regional or local bodies or individuals, to ensure that the views of a wide range of stakeholders are considered.

• Ensure that the Board, and the organisation, observe the Secretary of State’s and other government policies and priorities, including regulatory requirements and the Code of Governance and Codes of Conduct and Accountability;

4. **Board activities**

• Ensure the appropriate delegation of authority from the Board to the senior management team;

• Support and challenge, where appropriate, the Chief Executive and other directors to ensure that the Board conforms to the highest standards of corporate governance and makes appropriate decisions;

• Meet periodically with the Trust Chairman in the absence of Executive Directors to discuss issues of interest or concern;

• With the Board nomination committee, initiate change and succession planning for executive director appointments which can meet the needs of the Foundation Trust.

• With the Board remuneration committee, determine appropriate levels of remuneration for Executive Directors;

• Participate in the appointment and where necessary the removal of the chief executive and other executive directors, as appropriate;

• Participate in any board induction, training and evaluation identified as an individual and as part of the Board or committee;

• Work with the senior independent director on the annual performance evaluation of the chairman, in line with the process agreed by the Members’ Council and reporting back to the Members’ Council appropriately,

• Undergo an individual and board performance appraisal and attend any additional training highlighted as a result of the evaluation process.

• Take opportunities to develop and refresh knowledge and skills and remain well informed of the main areas of the NHS Foundation Trust’s activity.
5. **Members’ Council activities**

- Build and maintain close relations between the foundation trust’s constituencies, and stakeholder groups to promote the effective operation of the trust’s activities;

- Attend Members’ Council meetings and maintain regular contact with Councillors to understand their issues and concerns, feeding back these comments/concerns to the Board;

6. **Review**

This job description will be subject to review by the Trust Board and Members’ Council as appropriate.

7. **Other information**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust is a dynamic organisation, therefore changes in the core duties and responsibilities of this role may be required from time to time. These guidelines do not constitute a term or condition of employment.

8. **Confidentiality**

On appointment you may be given access to confidential information which must only be disclosed to parties entitled to receive it. Information obtained during the course of employment should not be used for any purpose other than that intended.