

## Outcome of consultation process – summary

In consulting with the public and community groups, the trust's primary aim was to reach as many people as possible. The trust wrote to a wide range of community and public organisations, taking special care to include local organisations, and harder to reach groups. The trust's Patient Advice and Liaison Officer wrote personal letters inviting representatives to meetings. In total over 300 organisations were contacted.

The trust then organised a number of 'face to face' meetings with groups who had expressed an interest; there were about twenty such meetings.

The trust held two open forums, in order to encourage a connection with the public; these were well advertised in the press, in local schools and in community centres, and through the delivery of flyers to all the trust's neighbours.

The first event, an open day with activities for children, attracted over 200 people and 45 of these attended formal presentations with an opportunity for discussion. The second event, an open evening, attracted about 50 people. Both patients and local members of public attended these two events.

### **Consultation feedback...**

***The trust agreed with feedback that indicated the need for more focus on ensuring membership and governors reflect the wider community, especially BME communities.***

The trust has received both formal and informal feedback on its plans following these meetings (over 100 separate feedback responses were received). The trust was very pleased that the feedback was generally positive, with strong support for the trust's foundation trust application.

There was a frequent request for more patient services, and for these services to be more accessible. There was overall agreement with the trust's governance structures, but some concern expressed about compulsory governor training. There was also concern about whether younger members should be eligible as governors, and the consultation suggested that the minimum age for governors should be set at 18.

Overall, it was encouraging that the public engaged so readily with consultation; one person commented that the open day event was "*like a breath of fresh air*" and another said they hoped it would be the start of many such events. The trust hopes to continue the dialogue.