

Job title	Director (Non-Executive)
Compensation	£7,140 per year
Time commitment	Approximately 1 day per month
Location	Meetings will take place in Cambridge or remotely, as circumstances dictate
Accountable to	The Chair of the Board
Term	Directors are appointed for terms of 3 years

About Eastern AHSN:

Eastern AHSN (Academic Health Science Network) is part of a national network of AHSNs established by the NHS to convene all partners in the health sector to develop and deliver innovative care. Our purpose is to turn great ideas into positive health impact.

We believe that health is improved by great ideas, but great ideas only make an impact when they are put into practice. Our health is too important to leave change to chance.

Citizens, academia, health services and industry will achieve more working together than they will in isolation. Our job is to make this happen and we do this by helping innovators navigate complex systems, generate value propositions and convene stakeholders to overcome challenges together.

The Eastern region is home to some of the greatest science and the most brilliant health and care practitioners in the world. We want our region to benefit from both, creating better health outcomes and more prosperity.

We are ambitious for patients and committed to applying evidence to make change happen.

Job summary:

The directors of Eastern AHSN play a critical role in shaping the strategy, vision and purpose of the organisation. Non-executive directors hold the organisation to account for the delivery of strategy and ensure value for money. They are also responsible for ensuring that risks to the organisation and to the public are managed and mitigated effectively. Led by an independent chair, to whom the non-executive directors and the executive director (the CEO) are accountable, the board of directors has a collective responsibility for the performance of the organisation.

The successful candidate will be a credible and respected leader in their field and have a passion for driving innovation in the health sciences and service. Eastern AHSN is seeking in particular an individual who is a leader in the field of primary care. During this period of growth and the implementation of an increasingly commercially focused strategy, skills and experience gained in the private sector will be as valuable to the organisation as those from academia and the health services.

The time commitment and workload for the non-executive directors will be approximately 12 days per year, including four half days attending board meetings plus half a day preparing for each of those meetings and a similar time commitment as a member of either the audit committee or the nominations and remuneration committee. Non-executive directors will be expected to attend both board meetings and the meetings of either of the committees of which they will become a member.

Every non-executive director will have the opportunity to develop close relationships with members of the executive, allowing for a deeper insight into the work of Eastern AHSN and for the non-executive directors to provide the executive with the benefit of their particular set of skills and contacts. Additionally, each individual will be expected to act as team mentors by helping their colleagues where needed with experience and expertise across all areas of activity.

Purpose of role:

The position should both assist in developing strategy, determining the objectives required to achieve it, providing constructive challenge of proposals brought to the board and its committees in order that the board achieves the best outcomes. A non-executive must however balance the need to remain independent of the day to day operations of Eastern AHSN, while maintaining a level of knowledge that will enable them to ask perceptive, objective questions. As directors of Eastern AHSN they collectively share responsibility for the overall performance and success of the organisation.

Key responsibilities:

Key responsibilities of the non-executive directors include:

Strategic direction

Provide a clear and informed contribution and act as a constructive critic in looking at the objectives and plans devised by the executive. This will include ensuring that the necessary resources, skills and finances are in place to meet the objectives arising from the strategy.

Monitoring performance

Monitor the performance of executive management, especially with regard to progress made towards achieving the determined company strategy and objectives. Also determine the appropriate levels of remuneration of executives, have a prime role in appointing and where necessary removing, and in succession planning.

Communication

Connect Eastern AHSN and the board with networks of potentially useful people and organisations. In some cases, the non-executive director may be called upon to represent the company externally.

Risk

Non-executive directors should satisfy themselves that risks are being identified, managed and mitigated, including those associated with the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and systems of risk management are robust and defensible.

It is the responsibility of the whole board to ensure that the company accounts

properly present a true and fair reflection of its actions and financial performance and that the necessary internal control systems are put into place and monitored regularly and rigorously. Non-executive directors have a key role to play in fulfilling this responsibility.

Person specification:

You will be a leader in primary care, possibly a practicing GP, with a strong understanding of both innovation and digital skills and have a passion for driving innovation in the health sciences and service.

More generally non-executive directors at Eastern AHSN would have the following competences:

Competence	Desired requirements
Qualifications and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Degree or professional qualification
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The credibility, leadership, support and authority to help shape Eastern AHSN's strategy, programmes and activitiesAwareness and understanding of the forces that impact healthcare in the UK and the related challenges
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Experience in healthcare, health sciences, academia and/or related businessExperience as a board member with demonstrable success in providing guidance and leadership
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial and business acumenHighly developed communication and interpersonal skillsAn ability to understand complex strategic issues and analyse difficult problemsSound judgment and diplomacyPolitical astuteness, with an ability to grasp relevant issues and understand relationships, potential conflicts between partners and other interested parties and possible solutions for resolutionA developed knowledge and understanding of corporate governance, reporting and risk
Disposition/ aptitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Entrepreneurial spirit with a solutions orientated mindsetHighest level of integrity and proven skills in diplomacy, problem solving, discretion and confidentialityIndependent of mind and impartial, while skilled at working in a teamBrings genuine passion for the work and purpose of the NHS and specifically Eastern AHSNA commitment to the organisation's objectives, values and behavioursTakes accountability seriously, with an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of directorship

This job description is intended as an outline of the general areas of activity and will be amended in the light of the changing needs of the organisation.