

# Chair

## CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT PACK



# Welcome from our chief executive

Thank you for your interest in joining Eastern AHSN as our next chair.

It's an exciting time to join as we continue to go from strength to strength as a vital partner to our region's health and social care system and the six million+ people we serve.



Everything we do to drive outcomes is driven by evidence and our local knowledge. Working at the intersection of citizens, academia, health services and industry, we have been perfectly placed to support the system in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have deepened our collaborations with our industry partners to leverage their direct support to the NHS including the introduction of innovations in the face of unprecedented pressure and changes in how services are delivered. However, this job isn't finished yet and these partnerships will continue to be key in supporting health services in recovering from the pandemic.

We spend roughly half of our time on the adoption and spread of national programmes delivered by the AHSN Network including the work of our Patient Safety Collaborative; this currently includes programmes to support CVD/ lipid management, ADHD, maternity services and mental health. We spend the other half of our time on priority areas of health consistent with the priorities set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, healthcare system resilience and pandemic recovery and areas in which our region is best place to make advances.

We are a valued partner to the integrated care systems within our region. We believe we have a core role encouraging and enabling our local system to transform by removing traditional divisions, embracing the future and champion changes including embedding a culture of innovation to improve population health. We do this by convening the right teams and creating the right conditions for enabling innovation as well as building lasting partnerships between sectors to bring solutions to market and deliver maximum benefits for all.

We have a wealth of expertise and experience in our people who come from diverse backgrounds and are unified by our clear purpose and strong values.

If you have the right blend of skills, experience, and empathy to lead us as we turn great ideas into positive health impact, we look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Piers Ricketts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Piers Ricketts, Chief Executive

# About Eastern AHSN

## What is an AHSN?

The AHSN Network is a catalyst that creates the right conditions to facilitate change across whole health and social care economies, with a clear focus on improving outcomes for patients. The network also has a key role in supporting the health economy, leveraging £1 billion of investment for partners in the last three years as a result of our work.

Each AHSN uses local knowledge and partnerships to drive change on the ground and integrate research into health improvement.

All AHSNs are funded by NHS England, NHS Improvement and the Office of Life Sciences, as well as additional income streams.

## Our purpose

Our purpose at Eastern AHSN is to turn great ideas into positive health impact.

We were established by the NHS to convene all partners in the health sector, to develop and deliver innovative solutions in health and care. Our focus is the East of England, but we are part of a national network which enables us to deliver at scale.

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

## How we work



**WE CONVENE**

**WE DEVELOP**

**WE DELIVER**

- **We convene:** We believe that citizens, academia, health services and industry will achieve more working together than they will in isolation.
- **We develop:** We believe that health is improved by great ideas, but great ideas only make an impact when they are put into practice.
- **We deliver:** We deliver the national AHSN programmes and support the largest health and life sciences cluster in Europe, mobilising leaders and the community to embrace the future.



## Our values

- Being a trusted expert partner, supporting stakeholders to deliver from ideas to meaningful impact
  - Always looking to improve
  - Expert and impartial
  - Responsive to needs
- Collaborating to develop innovations that truly matter for our communities and partners
  - Driven by evidence
  - Delivering on our promises
  - Amplifying quiet and diverse voices
  - Developing people and systems
- Kind, inclusive and appreciative in all our relationships
  - Always creative
  - Non-judgmental
  - Culture of curiosity
  - Fully present

## Further information

### Our impact review

Read about Eastern AHSN's impact across the region and beyond in our [2020/21 Impact review](#)



### A guide to Eastern AHSN

Learn more about how we turn great ideas into positive health impact in [this guide](#)



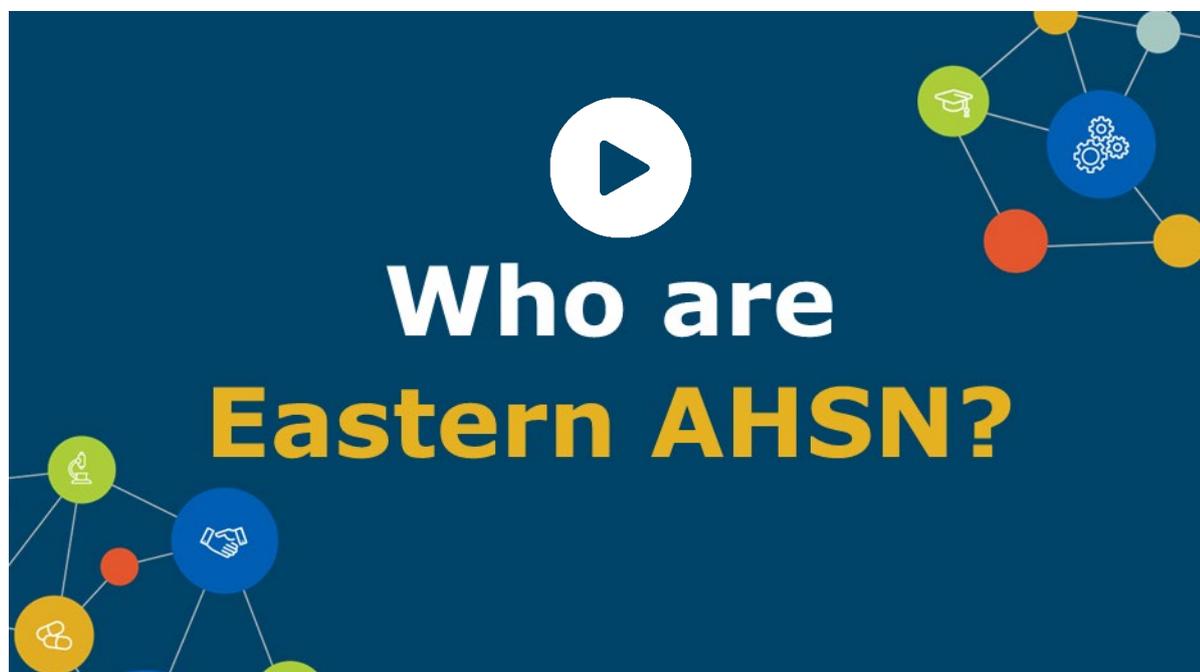
The Eastern region is home to some of the greatest science and the most brilliant health and care practitioners in the world.

We want the six million+ people living in our region to benefit from both, creating better health outcomes and more prosperity for everyone.

[Find out more about our region on our website](#)

# Learn more about the role

Learn more about Eastern AHSN and the role in this video interview with the current incumbent, Elisabeth Buggins CBE:



## Job description

**Job Title:** Chair

**Location:** Cambridge, with travel as required around the region

### Job purpose

The board of the Eastern Academic Health Science Network (Eastern AHSN) is seeking to appoint a chair to replace Elisabeth Buggins, who is stepping down after two terms of three years in the role. During this period Eastern AHSN has undergone significant transformation and expansion, including a doubling of its headcount. The organisation is now widely respected as an important catalyst for change in the East of England's health and care system and an influential source of support to the health and life sciences tech and start-up community in Cambridge and the wider region.

Eastern AHSN is a company limited by guarantee, whose members are its Board. This currently comprises the chair, the chief executive and six directors who act as non-executives.

Applications are invited from senior individuals who are expertly networked and able to contribute expertise and skills:

### The main features of the role are as follows:

- Providing leadership to the Eastern AHSN Board of Directors;

- Chairing board meetings, which will involve:
  - working closely with the chief executive to determine the agenda;
  - ensuring that the board receives accurate, timely and clear information, including specialist advice when required;
  - keeping track of the contribution of individual directors and ensuring that they are all involved in discussions and decision making;
  - ensuring that the board focuses on its key tasks;
  - directing discussions towards the emergence of a consensus view and summing up discussions so that everyone understands what has been agreed;
- Ensuring that all directors are involved in the board's work;
- Taking a leading role in determining the composition and structure of the board of directors;
- Making sure that all committees of the board operate within a similar and consistent framework for good governance, sound controls and management of risk;
- Engaging the board in assessing and improving its performance;
- Overseeing the induction and development of directors;
- Supporting and acting as a sounding board to the chief executive officer as appropriate and supervising their performance as line manager in the annual appraisal process;
- Leading the board in its supervision of the development, management and delivery of Eastern AHSN's strategic aims and objectives;
- Selective input to building and maintaining close relations between the company's constituencies and stakeholder groups to promote the effective operation of the company's activities, acting as an advocate for the company where appropriate
- Upholding the values of the company by example, and promoting equality and diversity to all stakeholders;
- Actively contributing to ensuring the long-term strategy and sustainability of the business.

## Other Relevant Information

### Time commitment and remuneration

- On average 2-3 days per month
- All non-executive directors are required to attend board meetings (generally 4 annually), and the meetings of one of the two committees of the board
- Remuneration for the position is available at £25,500 per annum

Candidates are asked to note the dates of the 2022 board meetings:

- 31 January 2022 (as observer)
- 3 May 2022
- 1 August 2022
- 31 October 2022

This job description will be subject to regular review and adjustment.

# Person specification

The following characteristics, knowledge and experience (or commitment to gain them) would be advantageous to the role of chair.

## Essential experience, understanding and abilities

1. Substantial track record of board- level leadership gained in complex organisations
2. A regional or national reputation as an effective operator and/or leader in an organisation in the healthcare (NHS or private sector), academic or life sciences sectors or related disciplines.
3. Demonstrable understanding and/or experience of the complexity inherent in running publicly-funded organisations with multiple stakeholders.
4. Demonstrable relationships with the health and life sciences community in Cambridge and/or the wider East of England region is desirable.
5. Vision, drive and imagination to support the development of the future strategy of Eastern AHSN, taking account of the potential changes in the operating environment in future years. Ability to support the senior management team in maintaining performance on core NHS-funded contracts whilst also developing revenue opportunities on Eastern AHSN's behalf;
6. High level of understanding and interest in the potential benefits that Eastern AHSN can bring to patients and its population
7. Significant experience of working with stakeholders and partners with a track-record of building and enhancing relationships across the local community, at senior levels, including political levels, in the wider community and both locally and nationally
8. Strong leadership, negotiating and inter-personal skills, able to engender respect from others and to work effectively as part of a team; able to manage Board members to work together to meet common goals and ensure their skills are harnessed for the good of Eastern AHSN
9. Sound knowledge of governance with a clear understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, liabilities and responsibilities of a company director. Demonstrable knowledge of the different responsibilities of the Chair and Chief Executive and the differing degree of involvement of the two roles in day-to-day operations
10. A commitment to the values, accepted behaviours and principles of the company
11. Ability to understand complex strategic issues, analyse and resolve difficult problems with independent judgement, common sense and diplomacy
12. Politically astute, with the ability to grasp relevant issues and understand relationships between interested parties, and be an effective influencer



## How to apply

For information on how to apply please contact Per Reiff-Musgrove, Company Secretary on [per.reiff-musgrove@eahsn.org](mailto:per.reiff-musgrove@eahsn.org).

**The closing date for applications is 17th November and interviews are expected to take place on 6th December.**