

Judging criteria

Key principles

Judges will be looking for entries demonstrating evidence that non-executives:

- challenge decision-makers in ways that positively influence culture, strategy or policy
- respond to the priorities and concerns of service users, communities or the public generally
- act independently but recognise they need to work with others to achieve success
- focus on outcomes so that their work is effective and leads to improved services for local people

Community influence

It is vital that the work of non-executives focuses on issues that are priorities or concerns of service users, communities or the public generally. To win this award, entrants will have to demonstrate positive outcomes from working with service users, communities or the public generally. Judges will be looking for evidence that non-executives have allowed those on whose behalf they work to influence what they have done. They will be keen to see that people have been able influence in ways that suit them.

Raising the Profile

Non-executives need to make sure that their role is valued and respected and that the public know who they can raise issues for them to tackle. To win this award, entrants will have to demonstrate how the work they have done has raised the profile of the non-executive role. Judges will be looking for evidence of positive media coverage or an increasing awareness and respect for the non-executive role. They will be keen to see creative ideas for raising the profile of accountability and scrutiny.

Added Value

In the current financial climate it might be tempting to see scrutiny and accountability as an 'expensive luxury'. To win this award, entrants will need to demonstrate value for money either in the way they resource scrutiny and accountability, how non-executives work themselves or the impact they have on how public money is spent by organisations or partners. Judges will be looking for evidence of effective resourcing, outcomes from limited resources or financial savings.

Joint working

Scrutiny and accountability can be particularly effective when non-executives either work together on common issues or when executives and non-executives share a common vision about the benefits of being 'held to account'. To win this award, entrants will need to demonstrate effective ways of joint working. Judges will be looking for evidence that two or more groups of non-executives working together or of effective relationship building with executives.

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Innovation

Traditional ways of working do not always provide the basis for effective working or achieving results. To win this award, entrants will need to demonstrate that they have worked in creative or innovative ways to achieve success. Judges will be looking for evidence that non-executives have thought about how to work differently in terms of working with communities or influencing decision-makers. They will also be looking for evidence that organisations or groups of partners have developed new approaches to developing the non-executive role.

Practitioner of the year

Champions and advocates are vital to ensure that accountability and scrutiny continue to be respected and supported in the public sector. To win this award, entrants will need to demonstrate that they have worked to advocate the non-executive role, had an impact within a particular organisation or partnership or helped communities to have a stronger voice. Judges will be looking for evidence of the personality and skills necessary to hold decision-makers to account constructively.

Team of the year

Bringing together people with a range of skills, either within a group of non-executives themselves or to support their work, can help to bring different perspectives to accountability and scrutiny. To win this award, entrants will have to demonstrate effective teamwork and provide evidence that a range of diverse skills have positively contributed to the outcomes of their work. Judges will be looking for examples of groups of non-executives working together or effective officer support.

Accountable organisation

Trust in public services is at an all time low and many people feel that their voice is not heard or that decision-makers do not act on the outcomes from consultation and engagement activity. To win this award, entrants will need to demonstrate that they have a culture of openness and transparency and listen, understand and respond to the priorities and concerns of local people. Judges will be looking for evidence of recommendations from non-executives being implemented or relationships or partnerships being built between decision-makers and non-executives.

Overall impact

Judges will choose an overall winner from the winners of each category. This award will go to the entry that demonstrates the most impact in terms of either on-going work throughout the year or through work on a particular topic.