

Trustee, Life Chance Trust

Do you understand the challenges of building confidence, resilience, wellbeing and independence after a difficult start in life?

Do you want the chance to shape the direction of an exciting new charity working to transform the life chances of 16-25 year-olds affected by childhood trauma?

We are looking for up to four new trustees to join our talented and lively governing Board. These roles are unpaid, but we can reimburse your travel and related expenses.

We're especially keen to hear from you if you have one or more of the following:

- lived experience of childhood trauma (personally or within your family)
- expertise and links within the voluntary youth sector
- relevant specialist knowledge of youth mental health or social care
- experience of digital development and online fundraising
- existing charity governance / trustee or committee experience.

We'd especially love to hear from confident, articulate young people aged 16-25 who feel they can bring their unique perspective and/or experience to help others. You don't need to have been a trustee before, and you'll be trained and supported by fellow trustees and Head of Trust.

Location: Flexible - meetings have so far taken place in Newton Abbot, but our first staff member lives in Bristol, and our Chair of Trustees is based in Yorkshire.

While virtual attendance is not unusual, it is preferable that you are willing and able to travel to Devon for at least three out of 5/6 meetings or training sessions annually (we will pay your travel expenses).

Term of Office: 3 years, renewable by mutual consent for up to three terms

Responsible to: Chair of Trustees, Life Chance Trust

About Life Chance Trust

We are a new independent charity, based in Newton Abbot, Devon, offering mentoring, coaching, advocacy, wellbeing and practical support for 16-25 year-olds whose childhood trauma has led to emotional, behavioural or educational difficulties that exclude them from traditional opportunities and pathways to learning and employment.

Inspired by the transformation we see when vulnerable young people receive the right support to sustain positive and trusting relationships, Life Chance Trust has been founded by the Life Chance Group, an award-winning education company whose three divisions share a common mission: To transform the life chances in our communities.

- School for Inspiring Talents: a multi-award winning independent therapeutic day school for children with multiple adverse childhood experiences who have struggled in mainstream schools, based over two separate sites in Devon (Ashburton and Newton Abbot).
- Life Chance Training: supporting teachers and school staff with trauma-informed approaches across the education sector.
- Life Chance Care: private assessments for children so that their needs can be better met within mainstream school settings.

For these young people, growing up has been especially hard, and navigating the journey to becoming happy, healthy, safe and independent adults is a major challenge. They shouldn't have to face that challenge alone.

Our charity will be led by young people's needs, hopes and aspirations to improve mental health and build confidence, self-esteem, resilience and independence.

Our six founding trustees are a mix of purpose-driven business/enterprise and education sector professionals and/or adults with lived experience of childhood trauma.

Trustee duties

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

1. Maintain the integrity of Life Chance Trust, ensuring that we pursue our goals for public benefit
2. Oversee the work of the Trust, in line with our constitution, all relevant policies, and the law
3. Act in the best interests of the charity and the young people we support at all times
4. Manage Life Chance Trust's resources responsibly, working towards financial sustainability
5. Provide effective governance input, holding staff members and fellow trustees to account
6. Act with reasonable care and skill at all times.

You must also be committed to:

- Safeguarding and protecting young people and vulnerable adults from harm
- Supporting the work of Life Chance Trust in Devon and across the South West.

If this is your first leadership / governance role, your fellow trustees will be on hand to help and advise you.

Expected time commitment

We hold 3-5 two-hour board meetings each year, each requiring preparation and pre-reading, plus annual trustee training and strategy days. Depending on your knowledge and interests, there's scope to be involved in our operations too, such as becoming a mentor, or helping with fundraising and partnership development.

How to apply

Please email your CV or profile to trust@lifechance.org.uk with 'Trustee application' in the subject field and a cover not explaining what you'd like to bring to the Life Chance Trust Board.

For an informal and confidential conversation, you can contact our Chair of Trustees Judith Johnson via jjes@hotmail.co.uk or new trustee Victor Bekker at vicbekker@girlingjones.com.

Deadline: 12 noon, Wednesday 7th September

Interviews via Zoom / Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 20th September.

Please let us know if you any access needs and we'll find a way to meet them.

Any invitation to join the Board of Trustees will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure for safeguarding purposes, as well as satisfactory professional or personal references.

Life Chance Trust is committed to equality of opportunity, supports and encourages under-represented groups, and values diversity. We want the Board of Trustees to reflect the diversity of our communities, and so welcome applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, who will bring a fresh perspective to the Board, irrespective of age, disability (including hidden disabilities), gender, gender identity or gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

We will monitor applicants' ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age as part of the recruitment procedure. Provision of this information will be voluntary and will not adversely affect an applicant's chances of recruitment or any other decision related to their employment.