

TRUSTEE VACANCY

Trustee – Lived experiences

Dorset Advocacy helps people to speak up, secure their rights and play a full part in the life of their community. We seek a trustee to help us communicate more effectively with our clients and funders and find new opportunities.

Dorset Advocacy was established in 1992 and has grown from small beginnings to become the leading advocacy organisation for the Dorset and Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole Council areas. Our advocates now help around 4000 people every year to make sure that they get the health and social care services that they are entitled to, delivered in a way that is respectful and empowering. A significant number of those we support lack capacity to make choices about their care and support, so our advocates help to ensure that their safety and human rights are upheld. Dorset Advocacy also operates the Appropriate Adult service for Dorset; our team of volunteers responds to referrals from Dorset Police every day of the year, attending police interviews to ensure that the rights and safety of vulnerable suspects are observed.

Dorset Advocacy has a strong Board that has ensured we have an ambitious strategy, strong financial reporting, and excellent internal controls. We now seek to further strengthen the Board through the addition of a member with skills and experience in the fields of Marketing and/or Fundraising.

You will be a member of the Board of Trustees, attending four scheduled Board meetings per year, plus the Annual General Meeting and one or two planning and development events. Should you also choose to join a committee of the Board, this will involve a further four meetings per year. Dorset Advocacy is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and all Trustees are also Directors of the company.

As a Trustee, your role is to ensure that the organisation complies with charity and company law, develops and implements an appropriate and effective strategy, and sets and keeps to a suitable budget. With your fellow trustees, you are responsible for appointing and monitoring the performance of the Chief Executive; you also have a collective responsibility for approving and reviewing the organisation's policies.

What we are looking for:

We seek applicants with the following qualities:

- commitment to the organisation
- integrity, strategic vision and good/independent judgement
- a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to their duties as a trustee
- ability to take decisions for the good of the organisation
- good communication skills

- tact and diplomacy
- willingness to speak their mind and listen to the views of others
- an ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- understanding of the legal responsibilities and liabilities of a trustee

We would particularly like to hear from applicants who have lived experience of equalities issues and/or of self -advocacy and the self-advocacy movement. We hope that you will help us to develop our understanding of the aspirations of the different sectors of the community we serve, and the barriers they face.

Skills

- Networking with people who face disadvantage or discrimination
- Advice / Advocacy

By joining us as a trustee you will help us to:

- develop and diversify our existing services
- pursue options for fundraising
- develop partnerships within and across sectors
- strengthen equality and human rights knowledge
- develop and promote leadership within our workforce
- Support the wellbeing of our employees

Above all, you will help people in our local communities to overcome disadvantage and discrimination, and ensure that health and social care services work in their interests.

Our trustees are a welcoming and supportive group who share a commitment to strengthening the voices of local people, particularly those who face disadvantage or discrimination. Trusteeship offers you the opportunity to ensure that our services remain relevant to local needs, effective in solving people's difficulties and an efficient use of public funds.

Commitment

Mainly working from home with occasional site visits to our Dorchester premises.

Travel: Usually 30 miles, may be varied by negotiation.

Time Commitment – Approx. 0-5 hours per month

Board meetings take place every quarter. Including preparation and follow-up, they require one day's work each.

Other tasks - 4 days per annum

Next Steps

Please email our Chief Executive Mike Pochin mike@dorsetadvocacy.co.uk or call him on 10305 256893. He will tell you more about the role. You will then be invited to submit an application; you will also be required to nominate two referees and complete a DBS clearance. Subject to references and DBS clearance, you will then be invited to an interview with two Trustees; successful candidates will then be invited to join the Board of Trustees.