

We have a fantastic opportunity for business professionals to join St Kentigern Hospice at board level to influence our strategic direction.

We are seeking those who have experience and expertise in the following sectors: Health & Social care, and Finance.

Whether you are an experienced Trustee or wanting to take your first step at board level, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Join us to make a real difference to the patients and families supported by St Kentigern Hopsice.

Trustee Role Description

St Kentigern Hospice is an independent charity providing specialist palliative and end of life care to patients, and support for their families. Clinical services are free of charge to patients and their families across our catchment area of Denbighshire, West Flintshire and East Conwy.

The work of the hospice is delivered by trained employees, supported by a large team of volunteers and includes a clinical team, non-clinical management team, fundraising team, hospitality and catering services and retail activities that includes shops and the Preloved Warehouse.

**Trustee Role:**

Salary: Unpaid. Expenses incurred whilst travelling to meetings

Hours: Generally, 1 AGM, 6 Board meetings a year and 4 committee meetings per year Location: St Kentigern Hospice, St Asaph

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# Charity Trustees

The Charities Act 2011 defines charity trustees as the people responsible under the charity’s governing documents for controlling the administration and management of the Charity. The trustees must be at least 16 years old and are the directors of the charity and company and are known as the Board of Trustees. Each Term is for three years, but you can serve three terms consecutively if you are willing and elected to do so. After three consecutive terms you must step down for at least 2 years before submitting your interest again.

Trustees:

* are committed to the Hospice’s cause and values and have joined its board because they want to help the Hospice deliver its purposes most effectively for public benefit
* recognise that meeting the Hospice’s stated public benefit is an ongoing requirement
* understand their roles and legal responsibilities, and, in particular, have read and understand:

o the Charity Commission’s guidance [*The Essential Trustee* (CC3)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3)

o the Hospice’s governing documents and/ or policies these will also include:

* Health Inspectorate Wales Reports
* AGM Minutes and annual report
* Article of Association – available from CEO
* Strategy
* Accounts
* are committed to good governance and want to contribute to the charity’s continued improvement.

In addition to statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve leading discussions, identifying key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, and evaluating or offering advice on other areas in which the trustee has particular expertise.

# Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees comprises of between five and twelve trustees and includes a Chair and Treasurer. The board adheres to the principle that its approach to diversity supports its effectiveness, leadership and collective decision-making.

The Board has four Committees to oversee aspects of Hospice’s Activities, Finance Committee, the General Purpose Committee, the Quality and Safety Committee and the Audit Committee. Each Committee has at least two Trustees in attendance. There may also be lay members invited who have specific skills to add to the discussion but they do not have voting rights. Senior management may also be asked to attend.

# Role of the Board of Trustees

The role of the Board is to ensure the assets received are applied for the charitable purposes, as declared in the objects of the Charity, acting prudently, and in the best interests of the Charity.

The Board works, collectively, as an effective team, using the appropriate balance of skills, experience, backgrounds and knowledge to make informed decisions, to ensure the charity is carrying out the purposes for which it is set up, and no other purpose.

# Key Responsibilities

## 1. Ensure the Hospice complies with:-

1. the Hospice’s governing documents and policies
2. Charity law requirements and other laws that apply to the charity

## 2. Act in the Hospice’s best interests:-

1. is clear about the charity’s aims and ensures that these are being delivered effectively and sustainably
2. make balanced and informed decisions, thinking about the long term as well as the short term
3. avoid putting themselves in a position where their duty to the charity conflicts with their own interests or loyalty to any other person or body
4. not receive any benefit from the charity unless it is properly authorised and is clearly in the charity’s interest

## 3. Manage the Hospice’s resources responsibly acting with a duty of prudence:-

1. make sure the Hospice’s assets are only used to support or carry out its purposes
2. avoid exposing the charity’s assets, beneficiaries or reputation to undue risk
3. not over-commit the charity
4. take special care when investing or borrowing and receive appropriate investment advice from investment professionals
5. comply with any restrictions on spending funds or selling land

## 4. Act with reasonable care and skill:-

1. make use of their skills and experience and take advice when necessary
2. should give enough time, thought and energy to their role, for example by preparing for, attending and actively participating in all trustees’ meetings
3. ensure the decision making processes are informed, rigorous and timely and that risk assessment and appropriate management systems are set up and monitored.

## 5. Ensure the Hospice complies with statutory accounting and reporting requirements

1. be able to demonstrate that the charity is complying with the law, well run and effective
2. ensure appropriate accountability to members
3. ensure accountability within the charity, particularly where you delegate responsibility for particular tasks or decisions to staff or volunteers

**In addition,** trustees support and appoint the Chief Executive and monitor his/her performance and work collaboratively with the Chief Executive and Directors (Senior Management Team).

# Time Commitment

Trustees are expected to attend:-

* An induction session
* At least six Board meetings per year
* Committee meeting 4 times a year
* Mandatory training as required
* They also need to undertake at least one Hospice Inspection visit as per Health Inspectorate Wales regulation and report findings to the Board. There are 4 hospice inspection visits by the Trustees every year

Board meetings are normally two and a half hours and one meeting a year is a whole day and is allocated to strategic planning as required.

Papers are circulated 5 working days ahead of the meetings.

# Person Specification

Each Trustee must have:-

* A commitment to the mission of the hospice
* Ability to work as a member of a team
* A willingness to meet the minimum requirements
* Integrity
* Good judgement
* Willingness to speak their mind
* Understanding and acceptance of their legal duties
* Understanding that they may be required to submit personal details to undertake financial responsibilities such as is required for banking etc.

The board of trustees ideally needs skills and experience in some of the following areas:-

* Health and social care
* Fundraising, income generation and trading
* Financial and data management
* Human resource management
* Volunteering
* Collaborative partnerships
* Social change
* Business
* Governance
* Law
* Welsh culture
* Retail
* Diversity / spiritualism
* Academia / research

**References:**

The Charities Act 2011

Charity Governance Code

Trustee role and board – Gov.UK

Hospice UK – The Esssential Trustee

Role Description dated: Reviewed April 2024