

VisionPK Charity Trustee / Board Director

Information & Background

Role purpose:

To further the work of VisionPK by playing an active part in strategy formulation; overseeing the meeting of organisational goals and strategy within the organisation's legal and financial framework. Trustees also have overall responsibility for compliance with Health and Safety and Data Protection legislation / requirements and oversight of VisionPK's policies.

Role requirements:

- To assist with the formulation and regular review of the strategic aims of the organisation
- With other Charity Trustees / Directors, to ensure that the policy, procedures and practices of the organisation are in keeping with its aims
- With other Charity Trustees / Directors, to ensure that the organisation functions within the legal and financial requirements of a charitable organisation and strives to achieve best practice in all areas of operation
- To participate in strategic planning activities by bringing ideas/ expertise to the work of the Board
- To ensure that all financial controls and systems of risk management are robust
- To maintain an overview of Health and Safety and Data Protection compliance
- To monitor and review the quality and operational outcomes of work undertaken
- To give freely of their knowledge and experience of their own area of expertise as appropriate

- To attend Board meetings and reflect the Board's policies and concerns on all its committees, sub-committees and groups
- To maintain good relations with VisionPK staff and provide support as required in liaison with the Chief Executive
- To take part in training and planning sessions as required
- To fulfil other such duties and assignments as may be required from time to time by the Board.

Background

VisionPK, based in New Row, Perth, has been offering support to blind and partially sighted people in Perth and Kinross since 1866. Three years ago, we extended our work to include people who are d/Deaf, or hard of hearing. Until this year, we did this in partnership with Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, but have now taken this on directly ourselves.

VisionPK is a small organisation, with twelve staff and fifty volunteers. During lockdown, we set up fundraising and communications functions, researched our service users and were awarded lottery funding for a new outreach peer support project supporting visually impaired people in Perth and Kinross. We plan to move from our current premises early next year and entering an exciting phase of our journey, seeking Trustees / Directors who can help us achieve our goals.

Our Aim and Activities

VisionPK's wants to be the first contact for people with sensory impairments living in Perth and Kinross. We offer a range of funded and charitable services, focused on early intervention and increasing independence. Our work includes assessment and rehabilitation; emotional and practical support; raising awareness of sensory loss; information and advice, including benefits; social activities; befriending; low vision assessment and specialist equipment provision; hosting the local Talking Newspaper. We work mainly with adults and older people, as well some children and young people. Partnerships are important to us - our staff and volunteer team deliver services with a range of volunteers, local and national partners.

Our Values

Our values are: to engender trust; to be kind and compassionate; to be inclusive; to look out for and respect people connected with us, whether they use our services, are volunteers, partners or staff; to encourage independence and promote choice amongst people using our services and to take a quality approach to what we do.

Recent History and Future Plans

During the last few years, VisionPK's Board have worked closely with the Chief Executive to ensure a quality service, which led to them winning their current contract for sensory impairment services with Perth and Kinross Council. In parallel, they recognised the challenges that the public and voluntary sectors faced, including financial constraints. The Board therefore invested in a review of VisionPK's position, with a particular focus on finance.

Our current strategy focuses on:

- Promoting independence and developing services for people with visual impairments
- Increasing awareness of VisionPK across Perth and Kinross
- Improving financial sustainability
- Better evidencing our work
- Having satisfied, happy staff and volunteers
- Ensuring robust infrastructure and processes

In keeping with our future plans, and in line with running an effective organisation, we are seeking Trustees with knowledge, skills and experience in the following areas:

- Equalities issues
- Commercial funding / enterprise
- Media / marketing
- Legal
- Quality assurance

Time Commitment

VisionPK's Board meets for 2-2.5 hours around six times per year; a Finance and General Purposes Committee, made up of some Board members, usually meet a few weeks before the Board. Our AGM is held annually; occasional short term working groups may run; training and development sessions are also offered to Trustees. VisionPK encourages its Trustees to participate in these sessions. A detailed induction is held, to familiarise Trustees with the role responsibilities, our work and policies.

What next?

If you are interested in joining us on our journey, please contact Gwenn McCreath, Chief Executive, in the first instance on 01738 626969, or email her at gwenn.mccreath@visionpk.org.uk for more information.

Thank you for interest, we look forward to hearing from you!