

Trustee - Role Overview

April 2024

About Social Action for Health

We are a community-based charity providing services and support to people most affected by health inequalities in Tower Hamlets and its surrounding boroughs.

Social Action for Health's roots trace back to the 1986 Tower Hamlets Health Campaign. A coalition of local healthcare workers, GPs, academics, and social action activists came together to address cuts to the health system and barriers to accessing health services. Their work resulted in the completion of the Tower Hamlets Health Inquiry, which highlighted the significant impact of poverty, unemployment, and poor housing on the Tower Hamlets population, as well as the multiple barriers facing minoritised ethnic communities in accessing basic goods and services.

Our vision is for a world where unfair and avoidable health inequalities no longer exist, and we believe that the more control people have over their lives, the better their health and wellbeing.

We provide services and support ([find out more here](#)) within local communities to:

- Increase people's ability to identify personal priorities and goals
- Increase people's confidence to make decisions about their health and wellbeing
- Increase people's ability to act on their decisions

We're recruiting 3 trustees over the coming months, replacing trustees who are retiring and also bringing new expertise, different experience, and fresh perspectives into our charity

Small and active board of trustees

8 meetings
per year

3 year
term

The Trustee Role

Our board of trustees provide overarching governance and clear strategic direction, alongside supporting our small staff team on several areas, including fundraising and impact evaluation. We are a hands-on board, and each trustee is involved in one or more work streams, donating their skills and knowledge to support the CEO and her team.

This role is rich and rewarding, and you would be joining a friendly, committed, and diverse group.

The range of core responsibilities includes:

- Reviewing our strategy and operations, making sure they're able to deliver our vision
- Ensuring we use our resources prudently and effectively, and making sure we have appropriate financial controls in place
- Complying with all relevant legislation, including the Charities Act 2006
- Acting in the best interests of the charity, avoiding actual and/or potential conflicts of interest

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- Embodying [our values](#) - accessible; collaborative; curious; equality; and respectful
- Developing good relationships with staff and trustees, working constructively to hold each other and senior leadership accountable
- Building connections for Social Action for Health, acting as an ambassador for us and our mission
- Attending quarterly board (c.2 hours) and sub-committee (c.1 hours) meetings, either virtually or in person.
- Dedicating time and effort to develop a good understanding of our charity, what we do, and how we do it

We're looking for people who:

- Are passionate about creating a fairer society
- Can build effective relationships
- Are committed to our values
- Have a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusivity
- Will engage with and contribute to the work of the charity, board, and staff team
- Have excellent communication and listening skills, with a positive and consultative style
- Embody Nolan's Seven Principles of Public Life - selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership

We're also particularly keen to hear from individuals with experience in communications, fundraising, HR / people development, and/or public health and health policy.

We are committed to equity and actively encourage applications from candidates who are likely to be underrepresented in positions of power and influence in our society. These include people from minoritised ethnic backgrounds; disabled people; and LGBTQI+ people.

In particular, we would like our board to better represent the communities we serve, and encourage applications from people who live and/or work in Tower Hamlets.

To Apply...

Please send us your CV and a short statement (no more than 400 words) explaining:

1. Your interest in joining Social Action for Health's board of trustees, and
2. What you'd bring to our charity

Please send your application to info@safh.org.uk, which is where you can also contact us if you have any questions about the role. We'll be accepting applications until **Sunday 19th May 2024**. We'll be shortlisting after the closing date, inviting successful applicants for a short interview.