



Being a trustee can be very rewarding. As a trustee you have the chance to support and shape the work and strategic direction of an organisation, and you can make a significant difference to a cause that matters to you.

Charity trustees play a very important role in making sure that the charity is run in the interests of the people it is there to support. They strategically oversee the management and administration of the organisation.

Open Ears exists to support, encourage, inform and provide Christian teaching and fellowship for anyone affected by hearing loss, be they individuals, family members, friends, support groups, churches or other service providers. This is particularly important since many people with hearing loss can feel isolated, misunderstood and underappreciated.

Hearing loss, whether through sudden trauma or gradual decline, is an unseen disability, and this makes it particularly difficult for individuals to believe that they are seen, heard and understood.

At Open Ears, everyone 'gets it'. We understand the specifics necessary for creating welcoming, relaxing spaces for deaf and hard of hearing people, places where no one has to feel different or marginalised, where communication needs are met without fuss or embarrassment.

Within this caring, safe environment, Open Ears is a real **community** where friendships flourish, joy is engendered and hope rekindled.

Open Ears has the potential to be a major voice within the wider Christian community, speaking and working for those with hearing loss to ensure that every individual is valued and enabled to reach their full potential in Jesus Christ.

It is in this capacity that we partner with other like-minded organisations under the umbrella of Churches For All www.churchesfor all.org.uk

In order for Open Ears to expand and be able to do this, we need more Trustees: we would particularly welcome people from ethnic minority backgrounds, and men in order to create a more balanced team. We are intentionally looking for people with the following skills

- An understanding of financial planning and accounting
- Experience of strategizing and setting goals.
- Understanding and experience of social media
- Website management
- Human Resources experience

What is involved?

Trustees together ensure that the charity has a clear strategy and that all it does is in keeping with the charity's Mission Statement, Statement of Faith and Governing documents. (All of these are available to view on request).

Trustees safeguard the charity's assets, making sure that these are used well and that the charity is run sustainably.

Currently, Open Ears does not have a Chief Executive overseeing the day-to-day running of the charity, (the Chair of Trustees assumes this role) and the Trustees, along with other volunteers making up the Team, generally play a hands-on role in achieving the aims of the charity.

Trustees meet as a Board four times a year (usually via video conferencing and at times in person) plus four times a year with the whole Team, again by video call. This means that Trustees are not bound by geographical location, and can play a full and active part in all decision making and events.

Each quarter Open Ears provides for its members an online conference, online prayer meeting and a magazine. Trustees are involved with the planning and running of all these events, and are encouraged to attend as much as possible. Occasional Quiz evenings, again online, are organised from time to time,

Regular communication by email between Trustees and Team ensure that everyone is informed and involved.

What's in it for you?

You may choose to get involved with a charity focused on a cause or an issue you are passionate about or because your life has been touched by the work of that voluntary organisation. It is also a great way to get involved in a community or find out more about the not-for-profit sector.

As a trustee, you are part of a team and will have the opportunity to apply your unique skills and experience while learning from others. Working closely with a passionate team of people who have different perspectives is often one of the most enjoyable aspects of the role.

Being a trustee offers the opportunity for professional development. It can let you gain experience of strategy and leadership, and boost your CV.

Trustees often say that being a board member has been one the richest sources of learning in their professional lives.

The essentials

All Trustees must be in full agreement with Open Ears' Mission Statement, Statement of Faith and the CIO Constitution.

All Trustees are required to agree to an Enhanced DBS check for working with Vulnerable Adults.

The ideals

We are looking for people with a **deep understanding of the effects of living with hearing loss**. People with lived experience, whether primary or secondary, are particularly welcome, but anyone with a passion for making a more level playing field for those with hearing loss is welcome to apply.

Other options

There are always openings on the Open Ears **Team** for anyone able to offer time, experience, particular skills or other input. If you would like to see 'behind the scenes' and find out where you would best fit into the Open Ears picture, please contact us for more information.

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