Join our Board of Trustees

Blood cancer UK

Message from the Chair

Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of Trustees at Blood Cancer UK, a Board which I am proud to Chair.

We are at a crucial moment for blood cancer research, with huge potential to change the outcomes for the 40,000 people diagnosed each year. We are also at a crucial moment in Blood Cancer UK's history. We have grown rapidly in the past decade, following an ambitious strategy that has meant we've been able to fund even more life-saving research. We are about to embark on the development of a new strategy, and we need fresh ideas and expertise to help build our next chapter.

For many of us on the Board, this is personal: I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer for which there is no cure. We welcome applications from people with a close connection to our mission, but this isn't a requirement. What's more important is that you share our values, a commitment to good governance and a determination to make a difference for the blood cancer community.

We are especially interested in receiving applications from people with clinical, research and NHS experience; who know how to build brands that resonate with people and raise money; or who have financial and/or investment experience.

If you're appointed, you will find an ambitious and energetic team united behind the goal of beating blood cancer for good. You will provide high support, but also high challenge, and be confident operating at a strategic level beyond your area of expertise. We know that board members often will have other commitments too, so we welcome applications from people from all walks of life, and from all parts of the country.

If this sounds like you, then I look forward to hearing from you.

About Blood Cancer UK

We're a community dedicated to beating blood cancer by funding research, supporting those affected, and campaigning for change. Since 1960, we've invested over £500 million in blood cancer research, transforming treatments and saving lives.

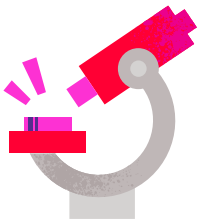
But right now, too many people are dying from blood cancer.

All our work today is guided by a single aim: to save lives and bring forward the day when no one dies either of blood cancer or the side effects of its treatments.

By 2028, we aim to:

- Increase **our research funding to £15 million a year.**
- Increase **our income to £24.7 million a year.** To get there, we've initiated our first ever major appeal – a new development of treatments for blood cancers with the lowest survival rates.
- Significantly increase the number of people **benefitting from our information and services.**

Our work:



Research: We fund research that takes us closer to a cure. Right now, our community is funding 360 researchers across the UK who are searching for the next breakthrough.

Information and support: As well as looking for a cure in the future, we help people right now. We're there for people when they need someone to talk to, whether on the phone or online, and we offer health information people can trust, in a language they can understand.

Our campaigns: We also campaign for change, helping make sure that people get the health care they deserve and that new treatments that come from research breakthroughs are available on the NHS.

Read more about our 2023-2028 strategy **here.**

We're not done yet...

For many people diagnosed with the hardest to treat blood cancers, their chance of survival remains low. We need to make sure that new treatments are available for people across the UK, because too often we see inequality in both access to treatments and outcomes. The outside world is changing rapidly; with the future of the NHS and advances in technology both potentially impacting the role that Blood Cancer UK should play.

So, we must turn our attention to where we'll go next.

It's an exciting time to join the charity but we're always looking to the future. Between now and November 2027, we'll be creating Blood Cancer UK's next strategy. Our Board will help us define the role we need to play in leading the change for the blood cancer community. You'll drive us to be ambitious in our growth and to deliver impact for our community.

We are a growing charity, and this is an exciting opportunity to shape our future, driven by the confidence and ambition to beat blood cancer.

Our Board of Trustees – how it works

We currently have 12 trustees, who all play a key role in setting our strategic direction. We have several trustees retiring in 2027, so are recruiting now to ensure we continue to have the right skills and experience.

Our trustees are the custodians of Blood Cancer UK and are legally responsible for ensuring that our resources are used effectively in pursuit of our main objectives. But you'll do much more than just make sure we comply with the law. You'll help us keep a focus on driving impact for our community, ensuring that the objects, purpose and values of Blood Cancer UK shine through in everything we do.

Our Board meets in person four times a year, with three of those meetings lasting for half a day and taking place in London. We hold one overnight meeting elsewhere in the UK. Our trustees make time to read and review papers in advance of Board meetings and often engage outside of the formal meeting cycle with challenge and expertise.

We do much of our work through subcommittees. If appointed, you will sit on at least one of these committees, bringing your specialist expertise to focused areas such as finance, audit or research. These committee meetings normally meet virtually, either three or four times a year, depending on their remit.

Our trustees are engaged champions for the charity and are involved in other activities outside of the usual board cycle, for example, being ambassadors for the organisation and providing strategic advice and support.

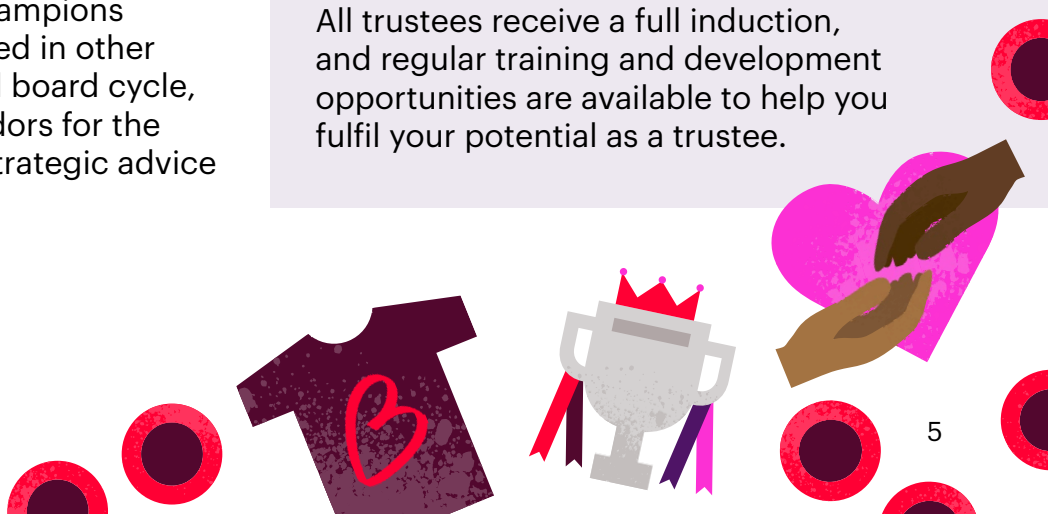
All trustees are expected to uphold the six main duties as outlined by the Charity Commission's 'Essential Trustee' guidance:

1. Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.
2. Comply with your charity's governing document and the law.
3. Act in your charity's best interests.
4. Ensure your charity is accountable.
5. Manage your charity's resources responsibly.
6. Act with reasonable care and skill.

What you'll get in return

Being a trustee is a deeply rewarding experience. You'll spend time with a passionate blood cancer community, including meeting staff, researchers and people directly affected by blood cancer.

All trustees receive a full induction, and regular training and development opportunities are available to help you fulfil your potential as a trustee.



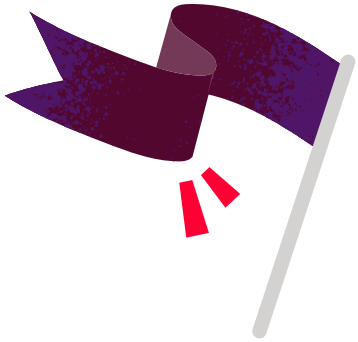
Who we are looking for

We welcome applications from anyone committed to the aims and values of Blood Cancer UK, and who can inspire and provide strategic leadership. We are always keen to make sure that we have strong representation from people personally affected by blood cancer.

The successful candidate will be experienced in working with senior executives and other Board members, and be confident in providing support and challenge.

We are especially keen to hear from people with the following expertise:

- **Clinical, research and NHS experience:** If you have experience of working in one of these settings and have the ambition to help us grow our mission, we would love to hear from you. We would be especially interested in talking to to people who have worked in the fields of childhood cancer, lymphoma or myeloma or with a strong understanding of data in a research or clinical setting.
- **Brand and/or fundraising:** You could be a fundraising or marketing director but most important is the ability to provide effective strategic challenge and support at a time when we're committed to growing our awareness and reach with people affected by blood cancer when they need us the most.
- **Financial management and/or investment experience:** We have big plans to grow Blood Cancer UK's impact and fundraising in the coming years. We need robust financial plans to underpin this growth and need to appoint a trustee who is either a qualified accountant or who has direct financial experience. We would also like to hear from candidates with experience of managing a portfolio of investments.



Role profile

1. Uphold and adhere to the highest standard of charity governance as set out by the Charity Commission.
2. Contribute to the strategic direction of the charity.
3. Monitor the performance of the executive against the organisation's strategic and operational plans.
4. Participate in meaningful challenge and discussions. Apply sound judgement and scrutinise appropriately to make informed decisions.
5. Commit to difficult decisions when required.
6. Identify and monitor risk.
7. Maximise your networks and identify opportunities that will benefit Blood Cancer UK.
8. Act as an ambassador and an advocate at all levels for Blood Cancer UK, with patients, researchers, politicians, policy makers, volunteers, fundraising partners and the world at large.
9. Adopt an open, curious approach, willing to learn and improve. Be able to confidently challenge the Board, Executive and the Board's advisers constructively and welcome challenge back.
10. Build constructive, positive relationships with other Trustees and staff.
11. Be responsive to a changing world, actively engaging with and learning about developments in the charity sector andbeyond.

The recruitment process

If you would like to apply for the position of trustee please send your CV, along with a brief covering letter (no more than 2 A4 sides) to **recruitment@bloodcancer.org.uk** explaining your interest in Blood Cancer UK and how you believe you could contribute as a trustee.

Please note that appointments are subject to approval by the Board of Trustees and will depend on the receipt of a satisfactory reference.

For further information, please visit **www.bloodcancer.org.uk.**

We'll hold three information webinars ahead of the closing date, in which you will have the opportunity to speak with the CEO and current trustees about the role. If you are interested in attending one of these webinars, please contact us on **recruitment@bloodcancer.org.uk**.

Key dates

- Information webinars will take place on Friday 24th July 1–2pm, Monday 10th August 4–5 pm, and Tuesday 25th August 5–6pm.
- The deadline for applications is 11th September.
- Longlisting will take place w/c 14th September.
- Shortlisting will take place w/c 28th September.
- Interviews will take place between Monday 5th October – Friday 16th October.
- Successful candidates will be invited to join our annual Board Away Day between 17th – 18th November, with a view to joining the Board as a trustee shortly thereafter.

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