



# Trustee and Board Treasurer

L'Arche is looking for a new Treasurer to join our Board of Trustees in its role overseeing our governance, finances, and mission in the UK.



# Together

With and without learning disability



L'ARCHE  
In the UK

**Do you believe that every person with our without disabilities has a right to a full life of friendship, belonging, and ways to grow in their gifts?**

**Do you want to support a global movement that shares the struggle of people with learning disabilities for voice, rights and community?**

**Could you offer your professional finance skills and your experience, energy and wisdom to help create a more human society?**

**If so, you could make a profound contribution to L'Arche as Treasurer and Trustee on the Board of L'Arche in the UK.**

This is a pivotal time for L'Arche in our 50th jubilee year. We are renewing our vision and model for a new generation. The last decade has seen a funding and recruitment crisis in social care, a pandemic that shook our sector to the core, and a reckoning with abuse committed by the founder of L'Arche in France. As the going got tougher, we asked ourselves: does the world still need L'Arche?

We have heard a resounding 'yes'. L'Arche stands as a beacon of what brilliant care, human community and a full life can be. We emerge with conviction deeper than ever about the power of shared lives and deep relationships across society's differences. We aim to be radical and distinctive as a guiding light of what social care can be, what life with a learning disability can be, and what human life in community can be.

This poses a second strategic question which we are now embracing: how to make L'Arche strong and sustainable in a sector that is chronically underfunded and overburdened. L'Arche in the UK is currently in the midst of a financial transformation to make it fit for the years ahead. We are looking for a new Treasurer to support us in our renewed mission who can bring a depth of professional and personal experience to the Board's financial oversight.

We also want to strengthen the representation on the Board of people with ethnic minority backgrounds, with lived experience of disability, and from LGBTQ+ communities.

Giving your skills to our Board could be a real gift for you too. Again and again, people come to L'Arche to change the world, and then find they are changed too. There's something unique created as people without learning disabilities and with learning disabilities share life together - share homes, share lifelong friendship, share their spirituality and creativity and activism.

If you like the sound of that, please get in touch and explore this with me.

Aedan MacGreevy

Board Chair

# Who We Are

## Do you believe in a world where we all belong?

### INTRODUCTION

L'Arche is a worldwide federation of people with and without learning disabilities, working together for a world where all belong. We believe in the transforming impact of genuinely mutual relationships between people with and without disabilities.

In the UK, L'Arche is a registered charity with 11 Communities across England, Scotland and Wales. We celebrate people with learning disabilities, and build communities with them rather than for them. We go beyond supporting people's basic needs. We attend to their emotional and inner lives, by building spaces of vibrant friendship, opportunity, spirituality and community life.

### OUR MISSION

- To make known the gifts of people with learning disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.
- To foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, whilst being faithful to the core values of our founding story.
- To engage in our diverse cultures, working together towards a more human society.



# What we do

## OUR VISION AND VALUES STATEMENT

### OUR VISION

L'Arche is here to show that everyone belongs.

We create Communities where people with and without learning disabilities live, share, and grow together.

We build relationships with people in our neighbourhoods.

We work towards a world where people with learning disabilities are included and valued.

### OUR VALUES

With and without learning disabilities, we try to:

- Be welcoming and kind;
- Be committed to each other;
- Bring out the best in each other;
- Celebrate being different and diverse;
- Encourage one another's spirituality.

### BRILLIANT CARE / INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

In L'Arche, we celebrate people with learning disabilities, and build Communities with them rather than for them. We aim to combine brilliant care with a distinctive commitment to intentional community, mutuality and the whole person. A distinctive feature of our model is that in some L'Arche houses a small number of assistants live in, sharing home life with people with disabilities. We care about everyone's emotional and inner life, building spaces of vibrant friendship, opportunity, spirituality and community life.

People with learning disabilities are integral to everything we do - not just as service users but as members, leaders, activists, colleagues and friends. Our mission is to discover and share the unique gifts that people with learning disabilities offer the world.

L'Arche was first founded on Christian principles. These principles mean L'Arche stands for the radical inclusion of those who are excluded, and for the right of every person to flourish in their spirituality, whatever their background. We welcome people of all faiths and no faith, including in senior leadership roles such as this.



# The L'Arche National Board

## THE TRUSTEES

11 Trustees make up the L'Arche National Board, under our registration with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Scottish Charity Regulator.

These 11 board members are also directors of the UK registered company L'Arche, and part of a group of about 50 voting members of the company which also includes Community representatives with and without learning disabilities.

The National Board plays a key role in ensuring the vision and direction and sustainability of L'Arche in UK. It is responsible to the Charity Commission, to the members of L'Arche UK and to the L'Arche International Federation for our governance, mission and identity. The Board holds accountable the National Leader, National Leadership Team and local Community leaders.

Individual Board members are identified to lead on: finance, safeguarding; whistleblowing; care regulation in Scotland; care regulation in Wales. At least 3 members of the Board at any time are also Chairs of a local Community Support Group attached to one of the L'Arche UK Communities.

## TIME COMMITMENT

The Board typically meets five times a year, including the AGM. Some of the meetings are on video call, and others in person. Routine meetings are on a weekday afternoon, interspersed with full day sessions for strategy, and for meeting the L'Arche National Speaking Council (made up of members with learning disabilities). Board members also participate in the AGM each year. On top of this, the Treasurer chairs the Finance Sub-Committee which meets online for two hours, four or five times a year.

Board members are asked to cultivate some contact with L'Arche community life, and to find ways to build relationships in one or more of our local L'Arche Communities.

## REMUNERATION

Trustees are not remunerated, but we reimburse reasonable travel, accommodation and other expenses.

## TERMS OF OFFICE

Trustees are appointed for a four year term of office, which can be renewed twice, up to a maximum term of service of four years.

## ELIGIBILITY

Trustees must be at least 16 years of age, and should not have been previously disqualified under the Charities Act.

## DUTIES

Read more about the 6 main duties of Charity Trustees, here: [www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved)



# Role Description

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<b>Job title:</b>	Treasurer and Board Member/Trustee
<b>Hours:</b>	Five Board meetings (including the AGM) per year. One annual audit finalisation meeting. Four to five Finance Sub-Committee meetings per year. Plus informal meetings as required.
<b>Remuneration:</b>	This role is not remunerated, but reasonable expenses are paid.
<b>Location:</b>	Meetings are mostly in London or on Zoom. Being close to one of our 11 UK Communities is an advantage but not essential.
<b>Closing date:</b>	2nd June

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## WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN US

You will find L'Arche full of amazing people, with a deep sense of commitment and belonging to each other. We need your skills and wisdom to help us nurture this Community life, and to make sure it is supported by strong governance and healthy organisational leadership, strategy and systems. You will join us in building a more human society, and you can expect to be profoundly changed too.

L'Arche is at a pivotal moment of finance step change as we embed a new accounts software (Business Central) and have recently expanded the leadership team to include a Director of Finance and IT. Better processes and real time data are a core priority to help us achieve greater financial sustainability in a challenging government funding climate.

## TREASURER ROLE SUMMARY

The Treasurer leads the Board's oversight of L'Arche's finances. The Treasurer verifies that the Charity is financially robust and compliant, as well as ensuring it is strategically positioned to deliver its objectives. The Treasurer also chairs the Finance Sub-Committee, made up of three trustees and the National Leader (CEO), and oversees and facilitates the preparation and scrutiny of the annual accounts.

This is a chance to make a meaningful difference to to a life-changing charity.



# Who we are looking for

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Treasurer's responsibilities:

- Providing financial accountability and supporting the Finance Director.
- Helping other trustees to carry out their financial responsibilities by presenting reports in an accessible way.
- Signing the accounts and receiving the audit report.
- Presenting the accounts to the AGM.
- Chairing the Finance Sub-Committee, which leads the Board on financial accountability and strategy.

Jointly with other trustees:

- Ensure that L'Arche in the UK has a clear vision, mission, and strategy and is focused on achieving them.
- Be responsible for the performance of the Charity and its corporate behaviour.
- Ensure the L'Arche UK Charity complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.
- Be a guardian of the Charity's assets, both tangible and intangible, taking all due care over their security and proper use.
- Ensure the charity fulfils its purpose and aims.
- Use your specific skills, knowledge, and professional and lived experience in support of L'Arche.
- Inform yourself of the key responsibilities, expectations, and best practice for Charity Trustees as set out by the Charity Commission and others, and stay up to date with best practice in the sector.

## WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for a Treasurer who is a Chartered Accountant as well as having the following characteristics:

- A desire to use their skills, experience, and energy to help us broaden the diversity of thinking and voices on the Board.
- Excitement for the mission and values of L'Arche, and a commitment to give time and energy to make L'Arche a beacon for a more human society.
- An openness to building meaningful and mutual relationships with people with learning disabilities, and to supporting people with disabilities to achieve their rights, find full opportunities, and display their gifts to the world.
- A willingness to understand and accept the responsibilities of trusteeship and act in the best long-term interests of the organisation as a whole.
- Ability to think creatively and strategically, to exercise good judgement, and to participate actively in discussion.
- Curiosity and readiness to learn and change through your belonging to L'Arche.
- Strong personal commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Openness to the spiritual dimension and growth of every human person. We welcome Trustees both with and without a formal religious faith of their own.



# How to apply

## TO APPLY FOR OUR TREASURER ROLE:



Please fill out the online application form by scanning the QR code above or visit:

<https://larches.livevacancies.co.uk/#/applicant/64>

There is no need to attach a cover letter.

## CLOSING DATE

Closing date for applications is 2nd June 2024.

## INTERVIEWS

Interviews will take place in the week beginning 24th June.





# Our Diversity Pledge

## OUR GLOBAL MOVEMENT

L'Arche is part of the global movement for inclusion and diversity.

We actively encourage people with a wide diversity of backgrounds and stories to join us.

We will welcome and support Trustee applications from people of all backgrounds. We encourage candidates who are disabled, who identify as LGBTQ, or who are from a minority ethnic background, since these perspectives are currently under-represented on our Board.

Our application process is designed to reduce the impact of unconscious biases, and to support people from backgrounds that haven't always been well-represented to contribute to L'Arche.

You do not need previous Charity board experience for this role - we will provide a full induction and any specific training you need. If there are a few areas in the job description where you feel less experienced, don't let that put you off. We are happy to support people to learn, and to make adjustments to make this job the right fit for the right person.

L'Arche is committed to inclusive working practices, so during the application process we commit to:

- Pay for childcare while you are at any in-person interviews.
- Pay your travel costs to and from interviews.
- Make any reasonable adjustments for the interview process.
- Offer a guaranteed first stage interview for disabled and ethnic minority candidates who meet the minimum requirements for the role.

