

Support Through Court Chair of Trustees

We offer practical and emotional support to people going through the civil courts with no legal aid through our volunteers and staff. Our current Chair is standing down at the end of May. We are looking for a new Chair to lead an established trustee board and work with the team to work towards our aim that no one should have to face court alone.

Who we are

We are a national charity providing face to face, phone, and online support to people dealing with divorce, eviction, access to children and many other challenges in the civil courts. You will be working with an experienced trustee board and our leadership team.

What will you be doing?

The overall role of the chair is to lead the Board as it sets strategic direction and oversees the good governance of the charity. You will be responsible for ensuring that the organisation is following correct governance and meeting its charitable obligations.

In addition to the general responsibilities of a trustee, duties of the Chair include the following:

- Providing leadership to the organisation and the board by ensuring that everyone remains focused on the delivery of the organisation's charitable purposes in order to provide greater public benefit.
- Chairing and facilitating board meetings.
- Representing the organisation at functions and meetings and acting as a spokesperson as appropriate.
- Bringing impartiality and objectivity to decision-making.
- Planning the annual cycle of board meetings and subcommittee meetings.
- Developing the board of trustees including induction, appraisal and succession planning.
- Addressing conflict within the board and within the organisation and liaising with the chief executive to achieve this.
- Working closely with the Chief Executive including appraisal and performance management.

What are we looking for?

There is no essential background. We have a diverse team of trustees with a range of experience, but there are clear priorities in the skills and experience of the new Chair we are seeking:

- A strong and demonstrable commitment to the principles of social justice.
- Leadership experience and ability, more than likely stemming from experience in leading a senior team or teams, whether in a professional, charity, commercial or other context.
- Sound strategic thinking.
- Good interpersonal and relationship building abilities and comfort in an ambassadorial role
- Strong communication and influencing skills: the readiness and ability to represent the charity both internally and externally.
- The ability to lead and motivate the trustee team, drawing out their individual strengths, skills and experience.
- The ability and willingness to commit the time necessary to deal with the range of issues that the Chair will face (usually several days a month).

Any of the following would be desirable but not essential:

- Some experience in the charity sector.
- Understanding of the legal duties and liabilities of being a trustee.
- Experience of chairing a charity or similar organisation.
- Some familiarity with finance and fundraising.

What difference will you make?

Working closely with other trustees, our leadership team, and our volunteers, you will help work towards our ambition that no one should face court alone and unsupported.