

London Plus: Chair of Trustees

Background

London Plus is a unique organisation. We connect, support and advocate for charities and community groups. Our purpose is to enable community groups and charities to make London cohesive and resilient so we can all flourish. As our current chair reaches the end of her term, we are now looking for a new Chair of Trustees to join us in shaping London's future.

Set up in its current form in 2019, London Plus has successfully established itself as a key part of London's voluntary and community sector (VCS) infrastructure. We empower the VCS in London to do more, and do better. We do this by hosting a range of networks for charities and community groups in London; by connecting charities and communities with policymakers, funders, and businesses; and by collecting, analysing and communicating information and insights.

London Plus is a trusted partner of organisations across all London's 32 boroughs, as well as key London-level organisations including the Greater London Authority, London Councils and London Funders.

We know London charities, community groups and volunteers do extraordinary things. Acknowledging and evidencing the impact of this is vital for the future. But Londoners are facing significant challenges, including the ongoing cost-of-living crisis alongside increased pressure on statutory services. This means greater pressure on London's charities and community groups as well, but resources and funding are limited and demand often outstrips the ability of organisations to respond.

We are looking for a new Chair of Trustees to work with our board, chief executive, staff team, partners and stakeholder to shape our future strategy and ensure that London Plus can deliver its purpose in a rapidly changing and challenging context for London's VCS.

This is an exciting time to join the board as Chair: London Plus has a number of exciting projects underway including:

- London Communities Emergencies Partnership (LCEP), which coordinates the emergency response of the voluntary and community sector across London;
- Engaging the VCS in the London's Health Mission to tackle the deep and persistent health inequalities Londoners face because of the wider social and economic factors that shape our lives and wellbeing.

- A System at Risk: our campaign to raise awareness of the important role of London's local infrastructure organisations, the challenges they face and why strong local infrastructure is essential to London's future.
- Building a cohesive and united London – supporting the Mayor's Loved and Wanted campaign, working with equity-led community groups to better support and amplify their voices and bringing together leaders from the VCFS, London policy makers and funders and national government to explore strategic approaches and practical action to address racism, anti-migrant hostility and community tensions.

Having secured core funding until March 2028 and established strong partnerships, effective ways of working, and a track record of impact, we are now looking to the future and planning to grow our strategic impact on behalf of the sector.

London Plus has an annual budget of around £700,000, and a staff team of six. Our Board of Trustees meets four times a year, and some trustees take on particular roles in supporting different organisational functions (e.g. finance, strategy), with sub-committees convened as necessary.

All trustees have duties which include:

- Holding the charity "In Trust" for current and future beneficiaries
- Ensuring that the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these
- Setting and monitoring budgets to ensure that the organisation is using its resources effectively to meet its objectives and achieve its purpose
- Ensuring that London Plus complies with its governing documents, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation/regulation
- Approval and monitoring of organisational policies
- Ensuring that the charity's governance is of the highest possible standard

Role description

The position of Chair is crucial to the success of London Plus and provides an opportunity for the right candidate make an important contribution to supporting London's charities and community groups. The Chair plays a key role in setting London Plus's strategic direction and priorities for the future, and ensuring that the organisation is making the best use of its resources to deliver on its purpose.

We are currently developing a new strategy and looking for a Chair with the skills and commitment to provide leadership to the Board, and work in partnership with the CEO and staff team to develop and deliver a new strategy that meets the needs of London and Londoners at a time of significant change and challenge in the regional, national and international context

Key responsibilities:

- Strategic leadership for the organisation, ensuring that strategy and resources are effectively delivering on London Plus's purpose.
- Providing leadership to the Board, including meeting the highest standards of governance and the recruitment and development of trustees with the right skills and experience to fulfil their individual and collective roles.
- Building relationships and network with partners, stakeholders and funders to further the organisation's purpose and strategy.
- Supporting and constructively challenging the Chief Executive in their leadership of the organisation.
- Ensuring that the Board as a whole works effectively in partnership with the staff team.

Strategic leadership:

- Proactively seeks to understand the context in which London Plus is operating.
- Works with the staff team, trustees, partners and stakeholders to set a strategy for the organisation which meets its purpose and makes best use of its resources.
- Reviews strategy on a regular basis and constructively challenges the organisation to continuously learn and change in response to changing needs, priorities and resources in London.

Board leadership and governance:

- Helps the Board make decisions in the best, long-term interests of the charity and take collective ownership of these decisions.
- Ensures that the Board agrees vision, strategy, and policies for the charity in line with its purpose and governing documents.
- Prepares and chairs Board meetings in an effective and efficient manner.
- Recruits trustees and develops the knowledge and capabilities of trustees to ensure that the Board has the diversity, skills and experience that it needs to play its role effectively.
- Works with the Board, the Chief Executive and the staff team to regularly review, mitigate and manage key risks.
- Ensures that trustees fulfil their duties and responsibilities for the proper governance of the charity including putting in place robust measures to ensure financial health and accountability, and timely and accurate reporting to the relevant authorities.

Stakeholders and partners:

- Builds strong relationships with key partners, funders and stakeholders to understand their needs and views, progress opportunities for collaboration and increase the impact of the organisation.
- Acts as an ambassador for the charity and works in partnership with the Chief Executive in representing the charity and acting as spokesperson as required.
- Helps the Board hear and understand the voices and views of key stakeholders and communities across London, including policymakers and funders.

Working with the Chief Executive and the staff team

- Supports the Board to work effectively in partnership with staff, and to provide appropriate oversight of policies and practices to support their wellbeing, development and performance.
- Ensures that the Chief Executive's performance is reviewed regularly and that they have appropriate opportunities for professional development.
- Provides effective non-executive leadership, working collaboratively with the Chief Executive and staff team while maintaining appropriate governance oversight and independence.

Person specification

We are looking for a Chair who can bring the strategic insight, organisational leadership and strong relationships that London Plus needs to deliver its purpose in the coming years. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate:

- A clear understanding of the challenges that London and the voluntary and community sector are facing, and the implications for London Plus's strategy.
- Insight into the role, value and potential of 'infrastructure' organisations like London Plus.
- Good, independent judgement and strategic vision.
- Relationships and networks with key stakeholders and partners, or a willingness to develop them.
- Leadership experience in a professional or voluntary role, including management of resources and staff.
- A commitment to the organisation and a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to fulfil the responsibilities of Chair (equivalent to approximately two days per month).
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- A commitment to promoting equity, diversity and inclusion

Apply today

We believe that a diverse Board leads to better results and actively welcome applications from candidates reflecting the diversity of London's communities.

London Plus is open to applications from people with no previous experience chairing a charity board, but candidates will need to be able to demonstrate relevant leadership experience.

To apply, please submit a CV and a short covering statement (no more than one page) to info@londonplus.org by 5pm on Monday August 17 2026.

Subject to availability, we expect to be interviewing shortlisted candidates in the weeks of 31st August 31 and 7th September.

If you would like to have a conversation about the role, with either the current Chair or the CEO, please email info@londonplus.org and we can arrange a time to talk further.

London Plus is the brand name of Greater London Volunteering, a registered charity in England and Wales (1115303). A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales company number 4070342. Registered office: C/o 9 Hare & Billet Road, Blackheath, SE3 0RB

