

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER TRUSTEE WITH HOPE HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICES



hope house ty gobaith
children's hospices

Registered Charity Number: 1003859



INTRODUCTION

Hope House Children's Hospices is a charity that gives every local child with a life-threatening condition and their family access to professional care and improves their quality of life from the point of diagnosis.

Our Trustees play a vital role as the leaders and ambassadors for our highly regarded and loved regional charity, setting the strategic direction and ensuring the charity delivers its charitable purpose.

You will use your personal and professional skills to make a real difference to a cause that matters to you.

Training and support is provided to develop your skills in other areas so you can confidently contribute to discussions and decisions.

The following stories and words from our team will give you a taste of what we do – but nothing beats seeing our work for yourselves.

If you would like to speak to our Chair, Steve Henly or Chief Executive, Andy Goldsmith before applying, please contact the HR Team on 01691 679679 or email HR@hopehouse.org.uk

You can also find out about our work, our values and our ambitions on: hopehouse.org.uk

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, STEVE HENLY

Being a trustee is an extremely rewarding and worthwhile experience where you learn new skills, meet great people and have new experiences and bring your knowledge and life experience to make a real difference.

We are looking for a trustee who has medical or nursing experience in general practice, obstetrics, paediatric care or palliative care and we're keen to hear from Welsh speakers and people from all cultures and backgrounds.

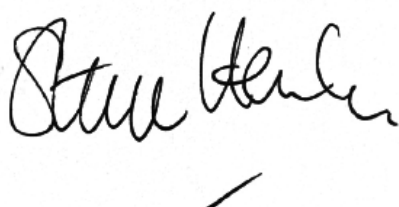
I became a trustee in 2011. It was my first significant volunteering role having spent 30 years in the private sector and 16 years running my own industrial and commercial businesses. I wanted to do something that used my business insight and commercial skills not to just make money but for a more worthwhile purpose.

For me, it had to be a local charity where I could see the impact of the Board's decisions and one which supported children and young people.

In 2016 I was elected to the role of Chair of Trustees, and it is an honour to lead a Board of dedicated and committed trustees, who share our Purpose of helping every child with a life-threatening condition live their best life. The charity currently employs 264 staff supported by 614 active volunteers and the Trustee Board is responsible for the strategic leadership and governance of the charity, supported by a full-time executive leadership team.

Hope House Children's Hospices has been supporting children and families for thirty years, and our care is needed as much now as when the charity was founded. We know that some children get support too late or not at all and it is our ambition to reach every child. To do this we need trustees who share our ambition, purpose and values and who will support the team of employees and volunteers to reach more children, provide high quality professional care and raise the money we need.

If you share our passion and would be able to dedicate the time to the work of the Trustee Board and would like to find out more, I would be delighted to discuss the role with you in more detail. Please contact the HR Team on 01691 679679 or email HR@hopehouse.org.uk to set up the discussion.



A WORD FROM OUR

DIRECTOR OF CARE, KAREN WRIGHT

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of Hope House Children's Hospices.

Hope House Children's Hospices make a difference. We care for children with life-threatening conditions throughout their life and support the families through their journey, ensuring that the care and support they receive meets their specific needs to help them have a good quality of life.

I have been part of the care team for over 25 years, starting as a nurse and now as the Director of Care. I feel both privileged and humbled on a daily basis to be part of a charity that truly puts the children and families at the heart of everything we do. Nothing can compare to learning that your child has a life-threatening condition and there is no greater job satisfaction than being here for these children and their families helping them enjoy the best quality of life, providing professional care at end of life and supporting family members in the grief that follows.

Our highly trained and motivated multi-disciplinary care team deliver the care and support but couldn't do their job without the rest of the organisation raising the money needed and ensuring the charity is well run. As a volunteer trustee you will play a vital role in ensuring all this continues.

The children's hospice and palliative care landscape is ever changing and I am invigorated that we are currently reviewing services and activity to align the charity to our recent revised Purpose, to help us reach every child that needs us and to provide them with professional care and support, which meets their needs. To do this requires bold decisions, new ways of working and new relationships with other organisations and to help us we need a trustee with a nursing or clinical background to bring a wide breadth of knowledge and experience to the Board. You will have the knowledge to explore, question and support new initiatives, and an understanding of the complexities families face and how, as a care team, we can reach and support them. Your understanding of wider challenges faced in the clinical world in terms of both workforce and practice will be invaluable.

If you share our Purpose and have the energy, experience and time to join our Board of Trustees to lead, guide and support a capable, dedicated and enthusiastic team we will be delighted to hear from you.

Kind regards,



Karen Wright
Director of Care



Supriya Kapas joined us as a trustee in April 2021. Supriya is a pharmacist who leads on quality assurance matters for the cell therapies facility at the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in Oswestry. Before working as a pharmacist she studied biochemistry and worked in a number of teaching hospitals and academic settings in London for 20 years.

Supriya says: “I wanted to become a trustee to offer my clinical experience and knowledge to support a fantastic team that is making a real difference to children’s lives, and those of their parents, carers, and to society as a whole.

“The phrase ‘you learn something new every day’ comes to mind; as a trustee this is definitely the case. I enjoy learning about the organisation, what it does, the capabilities it has and the people we have as well as what’s been achieved in the past. We have such a diversity of people as trustees and within the organisation which is brilliant. I am learning so much from each and every one of them.

“In my short time as a trustee I have quickly learnt it is my responsibility to always act in the best interests of the charity and remember that the key focus of everything we do is to provide the very best service to the children and young people we support.

“The hospices will soon celebrate their 30th anniversary and, as with any service of this age, required review and debate regarding its purpose in order to ensure longevity and continue to be a responsive care provider in the region and beyond. I hope to continue to play my part in developing an outstanding service for the future.

“I would advise anyone thinking about applying to become a trustee to do it and throw themselves into it! The role does demand a time commitment; it’s important to attend regular meetings and read all the papers to be able to give critical feedback and make informed decisions. Being a trustee means being in a position of responsibility, but don’t be daunted by this. Hope House Children’s Hospices is a fantastic organisation and training is provided for trustees.

“You can do it at any age. I do regret I didn’t do this sooner. I was trying to balance the idea of having enough experience and gravitas to bring to the table but actually youth and fresh perspectives are as valuable as age and seniority. I’d encourage anyone at any age, in any stage of their professional life, who wants to do something really good and get the satisfaction of making a difference to bring their talents and life experience to Hope House Children’s Hospices.”





AMELIA'S STORY

When a hospital nurse first suggested to new parents Charlotte and Dave that they could find support for their daughter Amelia at Hope House Children's Hospices they were really nervous. But one visit was all that it took to show them that we were ideally placed to help them care for their seriously ill daughter. They could trust us to take care of her medical needs and provide their family with much-needed help and support.

Amelia was diagnosed with a heart defect that could come hand in hand with Down's Syndrome during an antenatal scan. She was born weighing just 3lbs 10oz – tiny enough to fit into her dad's cupped hands.

Amelia was taken to intensive care and the family stayed in hospital until she was strong enough for heart surgery. They were briefly allowed home after the operation but were soon back in intensive care. Charlotte and Dave's lives were completely taken by over caring for Amelia – for a time they were even living in a camper van in a hospital car park so they could remain close by.

It was when the little family came to live in Oswestry that they were referred to Hope House. "I thought it was because they thought Amelia wouldn't make it," admits Charlotte.

"We came for a look around and a stay just after Amelia's first birthday. We had to be so careful to keep her away from germs and colds but we felt that Hope House was a safe environment. It was somewhere Amelia could do new things like swimming, and see other children and just play and do normal things."

Dave agrees: "You are getting the specialist care of a hospital but with child-friendly surroundings. I know Amelia couldn't be in better hands. We also know we could come here if we are struggling at any time, for instance, if Amelia's feeding peg came out. It is having that safety net if anything did go wrong that we could call here and know the staff are fully trained and able to help."

You can read the full length version of this story online at:
hopehouse.org.uk/amelias-family-story

Role Description - Volunteer Clinical Trustee

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of Hope House Children's Hospices in line with its legal and regulatory obligations and in keeping with its ambitions, purpose, aims and approach. This is exercised through the Board of Trustees with individual trustees taking collective responsibility for its decisions.

MAIN DUTIES

To provide high level thinking, insight, constructive challenge and support when working in partnership with Hope House Children's Hospices leadership team, to formulate, set, monitor and review strategic goals.

To help build and maintain building public trust and confidence in the work of Hope House Children's Hospices.

To act as an ambassador for the charity, representing Hope House Children's Hospices to beneficiaries, donors, supporters and other stakeholders.

KEY ATTRIBUTES

Medical or nursing experience in general practice, obstetrics, paediatric care or palliative care.

Motivated to help the charity deliver its Purpose most effectively and for public benefit

Motivated to actively support the charity to raise the money it needs.

Committed to good governance; to follow the Trustee's Code of Practice and adopted principles of the Charity Governance Code at all times and to uphold the legal responsibilities of trustees.

Able to commit to a minimum 3 year term as a trustee and to give sufficient time to the charity to carry out your responsibilities effectively, including actively participating in face to face meetings of the Board and Committees, typically held in our hospice building in Oswestry, Shropshire.

You reflect the charity's values in your way of working and behaviour.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in joining the team and becoming our new Volunteer Trustee we would love to hear from you.

Please send in your CV together with a cover letter outlining setting out why you would like to join our Board and outlining how you meet the requirements for the role to **HR@hopehouse.org.uk**

If you need any further information about the recruitment process, please contact our **HR Team** at **HR@hopehouse.org.uk** or call us on **01691 679679**.

If you would like to speak to our **Chair, Steve Henly** or **Chief Executive, Andy Goldsmith** before applying, please contact the **HR Team** on **01691 679679** or email **HR@hopehouse.org.uk**

Please note the role of volunteer trustee is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check, references and Fit and Proper Persons Checks required to be a Charity Trustee.

Thank you.



HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in joining the team and becoming our new Volunteer Trustee we would love to hear from you.

Please send in your CV together with a cover letter outlining setting out why you would like to join our Board and outlining how you meet the requirements for the role to HR@hopehouse.org.uk

If you need any further information about the recruitment process, please contact our **HR Team** at HR@hopehouse.org.uk or call us on **01691 679679**.

Please note this volunteering role is subject to:

- An Enhanced Adult and Child Workforce without Barred List Disclosure and Barring Service check.
- References and Fit and Proper Person Checks required to be a Charity Trustee.

hope house **tŷ gobaith**
children's hospices

Registered Charity Number: 1003859