

hope projects

2025 Trustee Candidate Pack



Welcome

Dear prospective trustee,

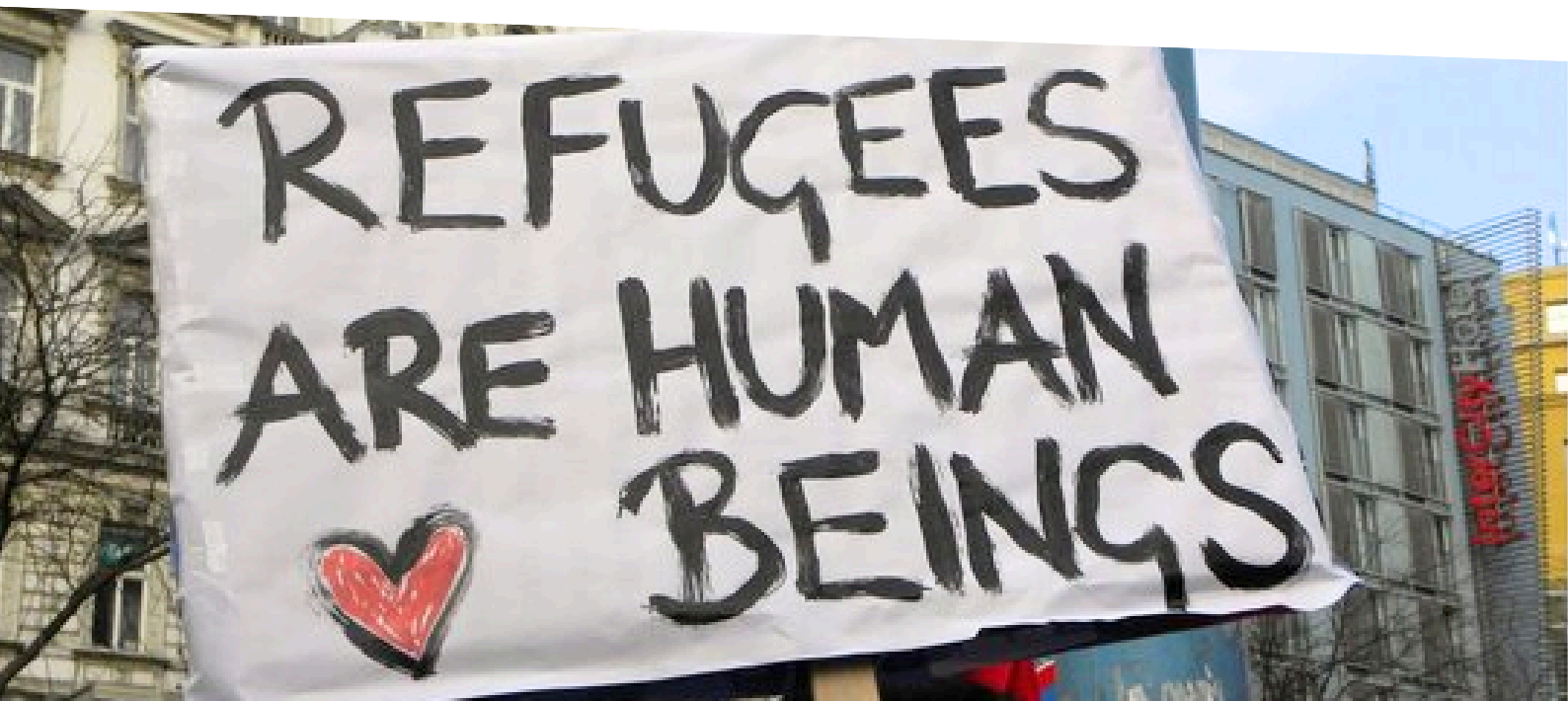
Hope Projects is unique. Providing accommodation, financial support and legal advice at OISC level 3 to people in the West Midlands made homeless by the asylum system, we deliver far more than an organisation of our size could be reasonably expected to. We make a real difference to the lives of some of the most at-risk people in the UK.

No-one understands the situation of people suffering under a hostile asylum system like those who have been through it. We are now setting out on the next stage of a journey that will be both exciting and challenging. Hope is committing to become a charity led by people with lived experience of asylum destitution, and one which also has a strong role for its clients in its management and governance. We are looking for a new trustee with lived experience of the asylum system to join us on this journey. Your experience may have been recent or many years ago. Skills and experience in immigration law, mental health or fundraising would help strengthen the board but are less important than a commitment to Hope's mission, the capacity to contribute to general governance and a sense of excitement about the journey we have set out on.

If you would like to have an informal conversation with me about Hope Projects prior to application, please contact the TrusteeWorks team at trusteeworks@reachvolunteering.org.uk who would be happy to arrange this.

With best wishes,

Phil Davis
Director



About Hope Projects

Why does Hope exist?

Imagine fleeing persecution and having to seek protection in another land. You'd hope for welcome, sympathy and for your rights to be respected. Sadly the British asylum system is complex and often hostile. Many people are refused the protection they desperately need simply because they get lost in the system.

When your asylum appeal is refused, you are evicted from your house, all your money is stopped and you are not allowed to work. You are left street homeless and destitute.

With 10 houses around Birmingham and the Black Country, Hope offers a roof over your head, money for food and essentials and the legal advice and representation you need to overturn flawed refusals of asylum; so you can start to live a normal life in safety.

What Hope Does

Destitution Fund

Hope provides cash grants of £30 per week for people left destitute while challenging flawed refusals of asylum. People are usually staying in Hope Housing, with friends or family, or with other charities.

Housing

We have 10 houses in Birmingham and the Black Country that are home to 31 people left homeless and destitute while challenging flawed refusals of asylum. We cover all housing and utility costs.

Wellbeing

Well Being is central to the Hope approach. Our staff and volunteers make sure that people are safe and able to make friends and connections in their own neighbourhoods.

Legal

We will ensure that anyone in Birmingham, Coventry or the Black Country made homeless by the asylum system understands why they have been refused and what steps they can take.

The difference we make

What did we do last year?

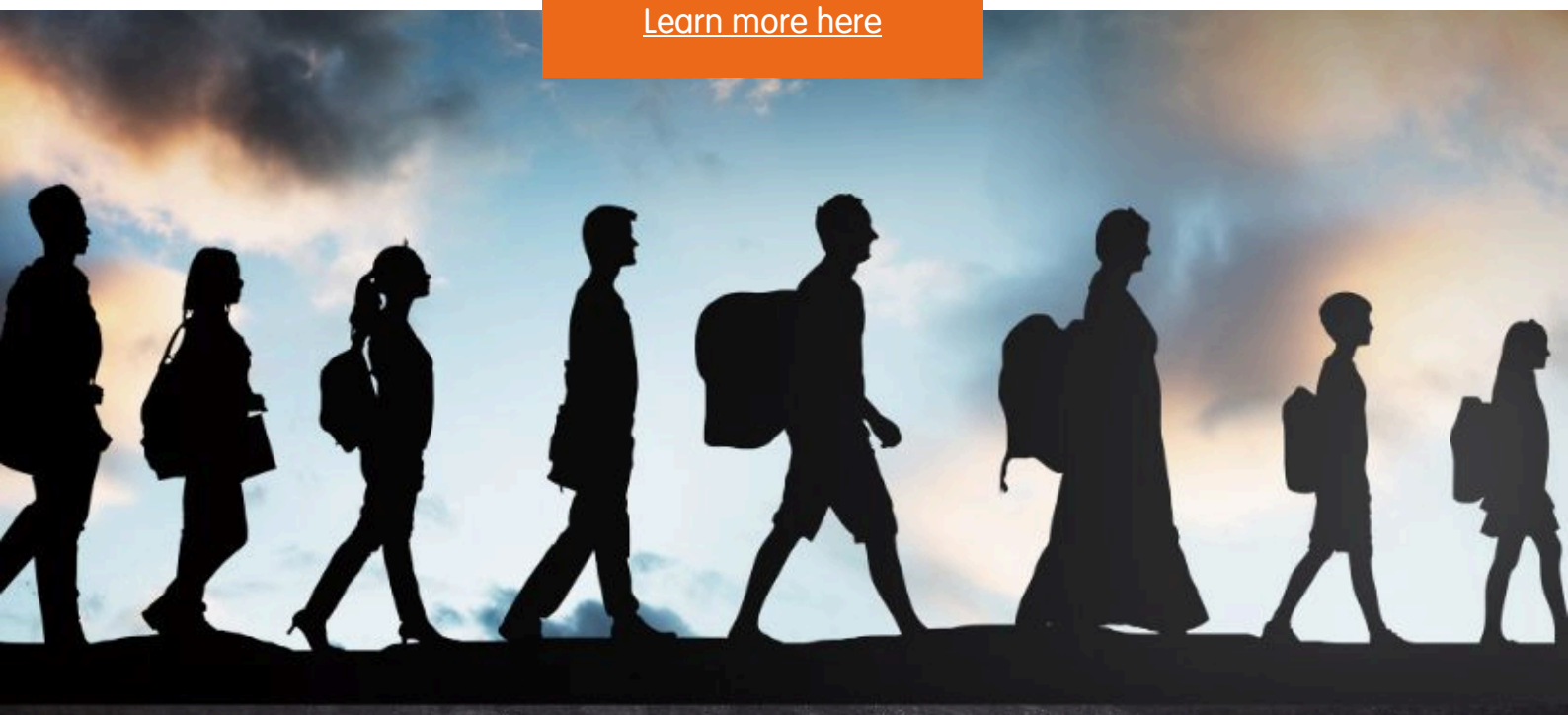
- We provided 10,901 nights of accommodation to 56 people made homeless by the asylum system.
- We carried out 171 legal assessments, helping people understand why they have been made homeless by the asylum system and what they can do about it.
- We gave £88,441 directly to 95 people who had no other income, enabling them to buy food and essentials.
- In total we helped 202 individuals.

What did it achieve in the long run?

- 40 people who were homeless at the start of the year ended the year safely housed (and that is on top of the 28 people currently in our houses while we help them get things sorted out).
- 15 people were able to build new lives in safety in the UK after the Home Office admitted that although it had refused them asylum and left them street homeless, in fact they had a well founded fear of persecution and were granted refugee status.

For the last 4 years, Nottingham Trent University have been working alongside Hope Projects, evaluating our work and helping us to understand the long term difference that we are making to the lives of our clients. They have finally given us the fruits of their labours, and its fascinating. Here are Phils reflections:

[Learn more here](#)



Role description

Trustee with Lived Experience of the asylum system

Our trustees play a vital role in making sure that Hope Projects achieves its core purpose. They oversee the overall management and administration of the charity. They also ensure that Hope Projects has a clear strategy and that our work and goals are in line with our vision. Just as importantly, they support and challenge the executive team to enable Hope Projects to grow and thrive, and through this, achieve our mission that those whose asylum appeals have been refused should feel safe and supported in the West Midlands.

Board members have a collective responsibility. This means that trustees always act as a group and not as individuals.

Over the next five years we want to transform how we work as a Board by bringing on as trustees individuals with Lived Experience of the asylum system to inform how we develop our services and organisation. We are committed to this improvement and change in how we work, and to supporting our new trustees to become an integral part of Hope Projects.

Responsibilities:

- Support and provide advice on Hope Projects' purpose, vision, goals and activities.
- Approve operational strategies and policies, and monitor and evaluate their implementation.
- Oversee Hope Projects' financial plans and budgets and monitor and evaluate progress.
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- Ensure that key risks are being identified, monitored and controlled effectively.
- Review and approve Hope Projects' financial statements.
- Provide support and challenge to Hope Projects' CEO in the exercise of their delegated authority and affairs.
- Keep abreast of changes in Hope Projects' operating environment.
- Contribute to regular reviews of Hope Projects' own governance.
- Attend Board meetings, adequately prepared to contribute to discussions.
- Use independent judgment, acting legally and in good faith to promote and protect Hope Projects' interests, to the exclusion of their own personal and/or any third party interests.
- Contribute to the broader promotion of Hope Projects' objects, aims and reputation by applying your skills, expertise, knowledge and contacts.

As a small charity, there will be times when the trustees will need to be actively involved beyond Board meetings. This may involve scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, presenting externally, or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise. This is a voluntary position, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Person Specification

What we are looking for

We are looking for a person with lived experience of homelessness as a result of the asylum system. This may be either current or in the past. They will bring energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the role, and will broaden the diversity of thinking on our board.

You do not need previous governance experience and we will provide a full induction and training.

Personal skills and qualities

- Willingness and ability to understand and accept their responsibilities and liabilities as trustees and to act in the best interests of the organisation.
- Ability to think creatively and strategically, exercise good, independent judgement and work effectively as a board member.
- Effective communication skills and willingness to participate actively in discussion.
- A strong personal commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Enthusiasm for our vision and mission.
- Willingness to lead according to our values.
- Commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Time commitment

(Estimated at 1 – 2 hours per month)

- Attending 5 Board meetings annually, including a AGM and Team Away Day.
- Currently meetings are held in person in Birmingham. Remote attendance can be arranged from time to time.

Why you should join us – the benefits of being a trustee at Hope Projects

- Trusteeships help individuals acquire a broader set of skills and a deeper understanding of how a charity works.
- Assist vulnerable individuals who have been refused asylum to get back on their feet and integrate within the community.
- Develop your CV and professional and personal network.
- Give a voice to those who cannot easily represent themselves.
- Use your skills and experience to make a meaningful difference.

How to Apply

The TrusteeWorks Team at Reach Volunteering are supporting Hope Projects with their Trustee recruitment.

Applications should be made via TrusteeWorks in the first instance.

Please send an up-to-date CV along with a supporting statement stating how your skills and experience would add value to the Board as well as why you are interested in joining us.

Please send applications and enquiries to:

trusteeworks@reachvolunteering.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 21st March 2025.

