

Making a difference to the lives of those affected by rape and sexual abuse

Position: Trustee (Volunteer role)
Term: 3 years (can be extended by agreement)
Location: Based in Guildford, Surrey
Closing on: Sunday 28 July 2024

RASASC Guildford is governed by a Board of Trustees, who, by using their professional and personal experience, oversee the organisation by providing governance, strategic planning and development of the charity.

About us

As an independent registered charity, we have been providing support to survivors of all genders over the age of 13 who have experienced rape or sexual abuse (both recent and non-recent), from across Surrey since 1992.

We provide a range of free, confidential services:

- an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service. ISVAs support survivors to help them overcome the abuse they have suffered and to rebuild their lives. This service also includes supporting the victim to seek justice through the judicial system, should they wish.
- A range of counselling services:
 - one-to-one counselling
 - therapy groups
 - introductory groups
 - youth counselling and family support programme
- A telephone support service providing listening and signposting

We have 24 employees and over 60 volunteers who work for us.

Volunteers are an important part of the work we do. Volunteers staff our support line and make up the majority of our qualified counsellor practitioners working with survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

We believe the support we provide has the power to change lives and improve well-being of our clients.

Our plans

Over the past few years, we have been on a journey to broaden the services we offer to survivors to meet the significant growth in demand for support.

Our mission is:

To provide a clear, accessible pathway for Surrey-based survivors of rape and sexual abuse through confidential and specialist person-centred services. To work to reduce perceived stigmas associated with rape and sexual abuse through education and awareness raising.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking a Trustee who is passionate about supporting survivors of rape and sexual abuse and has a commitment to our aims, vision and values.

To enrich the existing skill set of the Board, we are particularly interested to receive interest from individuals with skills and experience in one or more of the following: Communications & PR, Criminal Justice, Fundraising, Law.

No previous experience as a Trustee is needed. We are interested in your experience and your ability to provide constructive challenge, and to offer insights outside of our knowledge and experience.

Having different voices on our Board, will shape our vision and support our purpose.

Trustee responsibilities

- Bringing company directors and charity trustees together with related regulatory responsibilities
- Approving and making key decisions
- Ensuring compliance with our constitution, strategic plan, governance arrangements including RASASC policies and with relevant laws or regulations
- Providing financial scrutiny and stability
- Supporting equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the organisation and in their own practice
- Supporting the CEO and senior staff
- Championing RASASC's cause and its importance and relevance.

Not everyone on the board will have all the skills to contribute, but we have a strong board who collectively fulfil these responsibilities and we will support Trustees in training and development to meet their responsibilities and the aim of the organisation.

Time commitment

Trustees are expected to attend all full Board meetings. These are held every two months, on a Monday at our Guildford office.

Trustees are expected to have read the Board papers in advance for each meeting, to actively contribute to discussions and support the Board in decision making.

Communication with the Chair and other Trustees may be held outside the Board meeting to galvanise support or approval for ad-hoc requests/issues. This communication may be via email, phone or zoom video conferencing.

Trustees may be invited to engage in specific projects with operational staff, join meetings with funders or be part of any senior level recruitment campaign.

Term of Office

Trustees are appointed for a three-year term of office with an option of renewal for a further two terms to a maximum of nine years subject to the following:

- Review of skills and diversity matrix
- Annual Trustee review in which consideration will be given to attendance and commitment.

We are committed to equal opportunities and welcome applications from a broad and diverse range of applicants.

If this feels like an opportunity and organisation you are interested in joining and making a real difference to the lives of survivors, then please send your CV to Liz Joyce at admin@rasasc-guildford.org by Sunday 28 July.

If you have any questions about the role, please do give us a call as we would love to hear from you – contact Liz on 01483 568000 for more details.

Closing date for applications is: Sunday 28 July

Useful information:

Before you apply, make sure you are eligible

You must be at least 16 years old to be a trustee of a charity that is a company or a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), or at least 18 to be a trustee of any other sort of charity.

You must be properly appointed following the procedures and any restrictions in the charity's governing document.

You must not act as a trustee if you are disqualified unless authorised to do so by a waiver from the Commission. The reasons for disqualification are shown in the disqualifying reasons table and include:

- being bankrupt or having an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)
- having an unspent conviction for certain offences (including any that involve dishonesty or deception)
- being on the sex offenders' register

You can read the automatic disqualification guidance for charities which explains the disqualification rules in more detail.

There are further restrictions for charities that work with children or adults at risk.

Find out more:

The essential trustee - who can be a trustee