



Trustee

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

MARCH 2026



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of Merton Connected.

Merton Connected plays a central role in supporting the voluntary, community and faith sector across the London Borough of Merton. We work alongside local organisations, volunteers, businesses and public services to strengthen communities and ensure local groups have the support they need to thrive.

We are now seeking new Trustees to join our Board and support the next stage of our development. This is an opportunity to contribute your skills and experience to an organisation that works at the heart of community life in Merton.

JUDITH BRODIE
CHAIR, MERTON CONNECTED



About us

Who we are

Merton Connected is the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community and faith sector in the London Borough of Merton. Formerly Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC), we have supported community organisations, volunteers and partnerships across the borough for more than 30 years.

Our role is to champion and strengthen the local voluntary sector so organisations are better able to respond to community needs and support residents across Merton.

We work in partnership with local organisations, public services and businesses, including Merton Council and the NHS. These relationships help ensure the voluntary sector has a strong voice in shaping local priorities and services.

Merton Connected is governed by a Board of Trustees who provide strategic oversight and ensure the organisation continues to deliver on its charitable purpose.

What we do

Merton Connected strengthens the voluntary, community and faith sector and supports residents across the borough.

We provide advice, training and development that help organisations build strong governance, diversify income and plan for long-term sustainability.

We promote volunteering across Merton, helping residents find meaningful opportunities to contribute while supporting organisations to recruit and develop volunteers.

We piloted social prescribing locally. The service has now been embedded across every GP practice in the borough for more than ten years, connecting residents with community activities and support that improve health and wellbeing.

We also deliver Healthwatch Merton and the Home Visits Library service, and lead Merton Giving, the borough's place-based giving scheme, which brings together donors and partners to support local organisations and communities.

Our vision, mission & values

Vision

Recognised as a leading borough for resilience, inclusion, and community connection.

Mission

We support voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations to grow, collaborate and thrive. Strengthening Merton's civil society and improving wellbeing for everyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the borough.

Values

1

EMPOWERING

We support communities and organisations to build the confidence, skills and resources they need to thrive.

2

COLLABORATIVE

We bring people, organisations and partners together to share learning, build relationships and develop solutions to local challenges.

3

INCLUSIVE

We work to ensure all communities in Merton are heard, represented and able to take part in shaping the borough's future.



Our strategy

Our 2025–2030 strategy sets out how Merton Connected will continue to champion and strengthen the voluntary, community and faith sector across the borough. The strategy reflects how the organisation has evolved in response to local needs and how we will continue to support communities and partners in the years ahead.

Our approach focuses on four core pillars:

Convenor

We bring people and organisations together through networks, forums and events that encourage collaboration, shared learning and partnership working across the sector.

Capacity builder

We support voluntary and community organisations to grow stronger and more resilient through training, mentoring and practical resources that build skills, governance and sustainability.

Incubator

We work with communities and partners to develop new ideas, pilot innovative projects and co-design solutions that respond to emerging needs.

Amplifier

We ensure the voices and experiences of communities are heard. By sharing insight, evidence and stories from across the sector, we help shape local policy and decision-making.

Recruiting Trustees



Merton Connected is governed by a Board of Trustees responsible for setting the organisation's strategic direction and ensuring it operates effectively and sustainably.

As we implement our 2025–2030 strategy and continue to strengthen partnerships and programmes across the borough, we are seeking new Trustees to join the Board.

Trustees bring independent oversight, insight and constructive challenge. Working alongside fellow trustees and the senior leadership team, they help ensure the organisation remains focused on its mission and well positioned to support communities across Merton.

We are committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity and richness of the communities we serve. We believe that strong governance benefits from a wide range of perspectives, experiences and voices.

We welcome applications from people with different backgrounds, skills and experiences.

Being a Trustee

What's involved?

Trustees share collective responsibility for the governance of Merton Connected.

The Board sets the organisation's strategic direction, oversees financial sustainability and ensures the organisation operates within its governing document and relevant legal and regulatory frameworks.

Trustees work collaboratively with the Chief Executive and senior leadership team, providing oversight, support and constructive challenge where needed.

Board members are expected to review papers in advance of meetings, contribute to discussions and bring their experience and perspective to decision-making.

Guidance on the duties of charity trustees can be found in the Charity Commission publication **The Essential Trustee (CC3)**.

What you'll gain from the role

Becoming a trustee is a rewarding way to contribute to the voluntary sector and support communities locally.

Trusteeship offers the opportunity to use your professional skills in a different context, contribute to an organisation with a clear social purpose and gain valuable strategic experience.

Many trustees find the role provides opportunities for personal development, deeper insight into how charities operate and the chance to work alongside people with a wide range of skills and perspectives.

Role summary

Location

Meetings alternate between online and in person in Merton.

Time commitment

The Board meets approximately five times each year, in addition to the Annual General Meeting. Board members are expected to attend meetings, review papers in advance and contribute thoughtfully to discussions and decision-making. Trustees act as ambassadors for the organisation and may occasionally support events, partnerships or strategic conversations where relevant.

Term

Trustees are appointed for an initial three-year term and may be reappointed.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary role. Reasonable expenses can be reimbursed.

Key responsibilities

Trustees share responsibility for the overall governance and strategic direction of Merton Connected.

Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the organisation pursues its charitable purpose for the public benefit
- Contributing to the development and oversight of organisational strategy
- Ensuring effective governance, risk management and accountability
- Supporting the long-term sustainability of the organisation
- Acting as ambassadors for Merton Connected and the voluntary sector in Merton

Who we're looking for

We welcome applications from individuals who can contribute their experience, perspective and commitment to the work of Merton Connected.

You may bring experience from the voluntary sector, public sector, business or community leadership.

We are seeking people who bring:

- Strategic thinking and sound judgement
- The ability to contribute constructively to board discussions
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- A collaborative approach to governance and decision-making
- Commitment to the mission and work of Merton Connected

We would particularly welcome trustees who bring experience or interest in areas such as governance, organisational development, partnerships, fundraising, people and culture, communications, digital systems or emerging technologies.

Local knowledge of Merton or lived experience of the communities we serve would also be valuable.

Previous trustee experience is welcome but not essential. We are equally interested in hearing from people who may be considering their first board role and can bring fresh perspectives and insight.



Support and development

We want our trustees to feel confident and well supported in their role.

New trustees will receive an induction to help them understand the work of Merton Connected, the responsibilities of the Board and the wider context in which we operate. This will include opportunities to meet the Chair, Chief Executive and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Trustees will also receive key governance documents, recent Board papers and information about the organisation's strategy, programmes and partnerships.

Ongoing support is available through the Chair and Chief Executive, and trustees are encouraged to take part in learning opportunities that strengthen their understanding of governance, the voluntary sector and the communities we serve.

We recognise that trustees bring a wide range of experience and perspectives, and we aim to create a Board culture where everyone can contribute, learn and develop.



Ready to apply?

[Click here](#) to apply via CharityJobs. The closing date for applications is 31/08/26 interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held on a rolling basis.

If you would like a call to discuss the role in more detail, please email Judith to arrange a convenient time at chair@mertonconnected.co.uk. Having an informal conversation of this kind will not influence the outcome of your application.

If you are interested in the role but unsure whether your experience matches every requirement, we would still like to hear from you.

We are committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We welcome applications from people whose backgrounds or experiences are currently underrepresented in governance roles.

If you require reasonable adjustments to support you during the application or interview process, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate them.

A final note

We recognise that AI tools can be helpful, but please ensure your application reflects your own experience and motivations and that it is accurate and personalised.

If you know someone who may be interested in the role, we would be grateful if you shared this information pack with them.



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