



CHAIR OF TRUSTEES PACK

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN AN IMPACTFUL YOUTH CHARITY AT A CRITICAL TIME IN OUR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

CLOSING DATE:
FRIDAY 2 AUGUST

VOLUNTARY POSITION



“At TRAIN, we are passionate about young people and put them at the centre of everything we do”



NICOLE GUEST
OUTGOING CHAIR

For over 20 years, TRAIN has been dedicated to meeting the needs of young people in our community.

I've had the privilege of serving on the TRAIN Board for six years, and as Chair for the past year. It has been an incredible experience to witness the growth and evolution of TRAIN during this time.

We've achieved significant milestones, such as securing our fantastic town-centre youth space, “The Base,” delivering our services online during the pandemic, expanding into Wallingford, and appointing our first-ever CEO.

The true highlights, however, are the young people and their inspiring stories of how TRAIN has impacted their lives. At TRAIN, we are passionate about young people and put them at the centre of everything we do. It has always been my goal to ensure their voices drive our organisation, and we've taken significant steps towards this.

As I reach the end of my two terms on the board, it's time for new leadership to take the reins. I am committed to a thorough handover and will continue to support TRAIN as a lifelong advocate. I believe we have all the right ingredients for continued success.

Thank you for considering joining our board. I hope you find as much fulfillment in being part of this fantastic organisation as I have.



A WORD FROM THE CEO

Welcome, and thank you for considering joining our Board of Trustees.

I joined TRAIN as CEO in 2024 because I am determined to see all young people in our community thrive and reach their potential.

There have been some remarkable developments over the past year. We opened a new youth centre in Wallingford, and an unexpected windfall has put us in a strong financial position for future growth.

There are challenges too, of course. Young people are facing a mental health crisis, alongside other significant obstacles on a daily basis..

The need for TRAIN has never been greater.

Our outgoing trustees have done a wonderful job of setting us up for future success. Now, we're looking for the right people to come on board and help guide us through this exciting new phase.

If you are looking for a way to give back to the community, share your skills and knowledge (and learn plenty of new ones), and make a significant impact in the lives of young people, please get in touch. I'd love to chat with you more about this opportunity.

Together, we can create positive futures for young people in our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben'.

BEN DRABBLE

CEO

ben@trainyouth.org.uk

07763200126



OUR MISSION

TRAIN exists to improve the life opportunities of children and young people in Didcot and surrounding areas, especially those who are in need, disadvantaged or vulnerable, by empowering them to make informed decisions, attain stability, and become integrated members of society.

We empower young people to believe in their self-worth, to make good life choices, to accept and value their right to healthy and safe relationships ... and we watch their relationships with family, school and the wider community improve.

OUR WORK

We deliver front-line youth work services across three core pillars:

Place-based, Open Access Provision:

TRAIN runs open-access youth clubs, drop-ins and holiday programmes in South Oxfordshire, offering activities and a safe space with support from dedicated youth workers.

Detached and Outreach:

TRAIN's youth workers engage young people on the streets and in parks, building relationships, providing positive influence, and connecting them to other services.

Targeted Mentoring:

TRAIN provides one-to-one and group mentoring, including specific support groups like our brilliant Shout! group for young LGBTQ+ people, ensuring tailored guidance for young people referred by schools and partners.





529

young people engaged with TRAIN services
in 2023

70





young people receiving targeted
mentoring support

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

THE KEY BITS!

As TRAIN's Chair, you'll lead our Board of Trustees, and oversee the work of our CEO ensuring we deliver brilliant outcomes for the young people we support every day!

Your tasks include:

-  Lead our Board of Trustees meetings
-  Support our CEO and staff team
-  Shout about our work, and act as our biggest advocate
-  Help make sure our Board fulfils its responsibilities and requirements

You are:

An inclusive and strategic leader, who can bring a Board of Trustees with different specialisms together around a clear future plan. You're passionate about your local community, and are keen to help young people in South Oxfordshire thrive.

Time commitment:

We estimate around 10 to 20 hours per month. There will be quarterly board meetings, which are usually on a Tuesday evening. Our CEO undertakes the day to day management of the organisation, but will need some focused support time from you with the bigger picture items.

A typical month might include:

- Preparing for and chairing a Trustee Board meeting (3 to 4 hours)
- Chairing a one-to-one meeting with our CEO (1 to 2 hours)
- Joining TRAIN's sub-committee meetings as required (1 to 2 hours)
- Attending stakeholder and fundraising events (2 to 3 hours)
- Advising and supporting TRAIN's CEO (3 to 4 hours)



MARIA SEMMONDS

TRUSTEE

“TRAIN is exceptional due to its dedicated team and impactful programmes that address the unique needs of young people”

“What makes TRAIN great is its holistic approach to youth development, focusing on relationships, mentorship and community engagement”



SABIENE NORTH

TRUSTEE



TERESA STRIKE

OUTGOING TREASURER

“Serving as a trustee has given me the opportunity to help shape the future of our community by investing in its young people”

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

DETAILED ROLE DESCRIPTION

Alongside fulfilling the role of a Trustee, the Chair leads our Board of Trustees, and manages the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The Chair leads in an inclusive way, supporting the board to work together well, and providing support and challenge to the CEO. The Chair also acts as an ambassador for the charity, supporting the CEO with stakeholder engagement, and at key events.

- Provides strategic leadership to the charity and the Board, ensuring that TRAIN achieves its mission.
- Works in partnership with the Chief Executive and team of staff and volunteers to achieve our mission.
- Leads the board in ensuring it fulfils its responsibilities for the governance of the organisation.
- Supports a strong, positive relationship between the board and TRAIN's staff and volunteers.
- Plans and chairs the board meetings, with others as appropriate.
- Acts as a spokesperson and figurehead for TRAIN.

In addition to the above, the Chair will have the responsibilities and qualities of all trustees:

- Support and provide advice on TRAIN's purpose, vision, goals and activities.
- Approve operational strategies and policies, and monitor and evaluate their implementation.
- Oversee and approve TRAIN's financial plans and budgets, monitoring and evaluating progress.
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- Ensure that key risks are being identified, monitored and controlled effectively.
- Attend Board meetings, adequately prepared to contribute to discussions.
- Use independent judgment, acting legally and in good faith to promote and protect TRAIN's interests, to the exclusion of their own personal and/or any third party interests.
- Contribute to the broader promotion of TRAIN's objects, aims and reputation by applying your skills, expertise, knowledge and contacts.

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

DETAILED PERSON DESCRIPTION

- Experience of being a trustee.
- Demonstrable interest in, or experience with organisations that support young people.
- A keen sense of strategic purpose and planning.
- A positive, inclusive leadership style, with the ability to inspire and support everyone to participate on an equal footing.
- The ability to listen and engage effectively. You are comfortable with challenge and debate and are able to encourage that in others whilst fostering a collaborative board environment.
- Advocate - be able and willing to champion our work through personal networks, social media, and other channels.
- A strong personal commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Able to be responsive to the needs of the organisation's staff team, and particularly support and advise the CEO as required.



NEXT STEPS

Closing date: 2 August 2024

For an informal conversation about the role, email our current Chair of Trustees,

Nicole:

nicole@trainyouth.org.uk

You're also welcome to reach out to our CEO,

Ben:

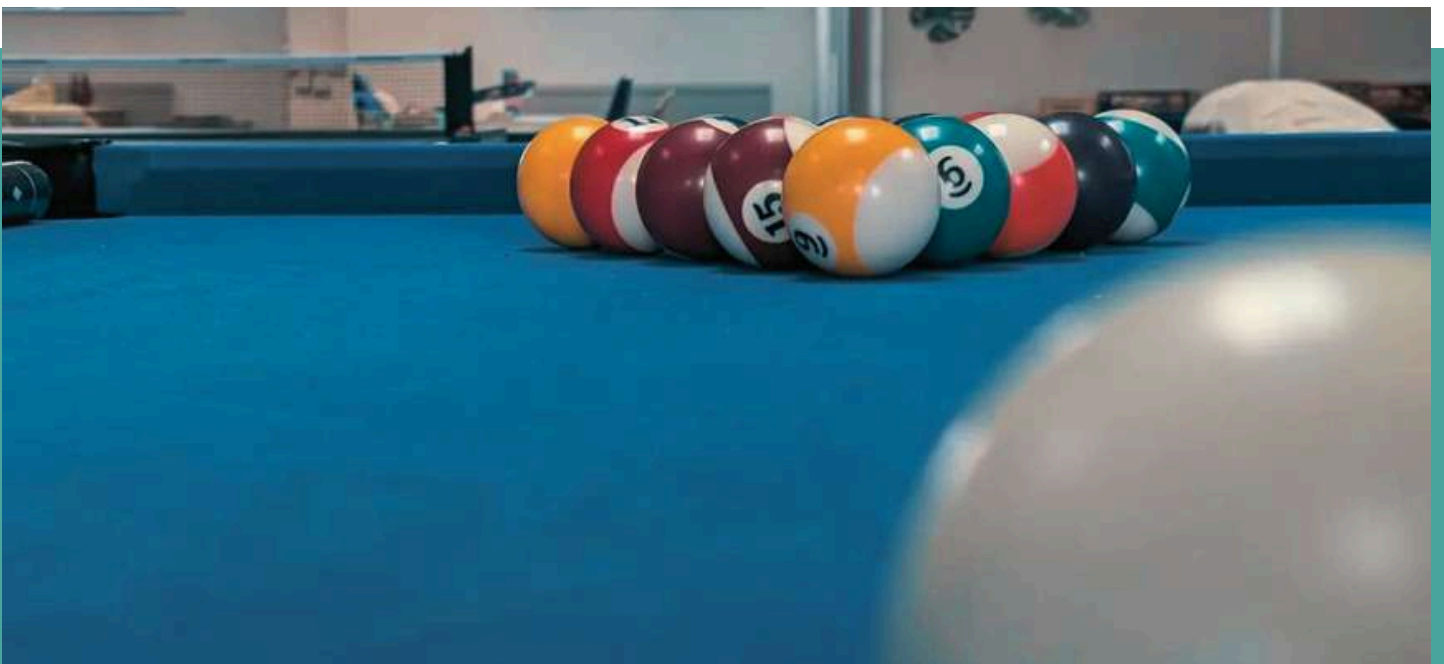
ben@trainyouth.org.uk

If you're ready to apply **send a copy of your CV to Nicole, with a brief covering paragraph**, and we'll arrange interviews on a rolling basis at a mutually convenient time.

Don't delay - we'll close applications early if a suitable candidate is appointed to the role.

Term

Trustees are appointed for a 3-year term of office, with optional renewal. We're also open to considering an interim appointment for 6 to 12 months





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Registered Charity Number: 1176258