

Community Action: Bedfordshire Trustees' Week Volunteering Newsletter

06 November 2020

Included in this newsletter:

- Trustees' Week 2-6 November 2020
 - Current volunteering opportunities
 - Staying safe whilst volunteering in line with the latest Government guidance – ***update***
- Community Action Bedfordshire is the accredited Volunteer Centre for Central Bedfordshire and Luton.**

You are receiving this newsletter because you have either registered your interest in volunteering on the CBC website or you have registered on our online volunteering platform, Volunteer Connect, and opted-in to be part of the Volunteer Bank.

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Trustees' Week 2020

Trustees' Week: 2-6 November 2020

Trustees are the people in charge of a charity. They help to make the UK the [sixth most giving country in the world](#).

They play a vital role, volunteering their time and working together to make important decisions about the charity's work.

Trustees' Week is an annual event to showcase the great work that trustees do and highlight opportunities for people from all walks of life to get involved and make a difference. [Click here](#) to view Trustees' Week website.

There are approximately 196,000 charities in the UK, and just **over 1 million trustees**, of which some 850,000 are in England and Wales. The average trustee in England and Wales is 59 years old. There are many young trustees too with some 86,000 trustee positions held by 16-34 year olds.

Interested in becoming a Trustee?

Find out more about what you need to know about becoming a charity trustee by reading Getting on Board's new, free guide [How to Become A Charity Trustee](#). Becoming a charity trustee allows you to **give back to a cause that you care passionately about while gaining new skills, confidence and connections**.

'Becoming a charity trustee could **boost your health, happiness, career and confidence** - all while giving back to a cause you're passionate about! But with 90,000 charity trustee vacancies in the UK, it can be difficult to know where to start.'

'This guide is invaluable in helping you understand the skills you have to offer, so you can find the right role as a trustee. Becoming a trustee can feel like a lot of responsibility, but it's a brilliant feeling knowing you really are contributing where it's needed.'

Search current opportunities on Volunteer Connect [here](#) or click on the role titles below to find out more.

Contact us on: volunteer@cabeds.org.uk **07584 687657**



Current Trustee opportunities

Organisations currently recruiting trustees:

- [Chair of CPRE Bedfordshire](#)
- [RSPCA Bedfordshire South](#)
- [Keech Hospice Care](#)
- [Headway Luton](#)
- [Luton Mediation](#)
- [Hospice at Home Volunteers \(Leighton Buzzard\) Treasurer](#)
- [Buzzer Buses \(Leighton Buzzard\)](#)
- [Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation](#)
- [Mind BLMK](#)

Please scroll down to find out more and click on the [role title](#) for more information and to register your interest on Volunteer Connect.

If you would like to speak to an adviser about Volunteering opportunities, please contact us on:
volunteer@cabeds.org.uk | 07584 687657

CPRE Bedfordshire

[Chair of CPRE Bedfordshire](#)

CPRE Bedfordshire needs a new Chair to lead our board of Trustees and develop our future work.

We are looking for someone with a big passion for environmental and countryside issues who wants to make a difference in Bedfordshire. Ideally you will also have some experience of the charity sector or board management and the ability to inspire others.

You'll provide the vision and leadership to ensure that CPRE Bedfordshire has a strong and effective voice whilst ensuring the requirements of the constitution are met and that our governance complies with charity law and best practice.

This is an excellent opportunity to play a senior role in a respected local environmental organisation, applying your management skills and experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly and committed group.

If you love the Bedfordshire countryside and want to help us grow in capacity and influence, we would like to hear from you! This role is home based with meetings either virtually or at agreed location in Bedfordshire. Office is in Bedford.



The countryside charity
Bedfordshire

RSPCA South Bedfordshire

Trustee

The Bedfordshire South Branch wishes to appoint a new Trustee who will report to the Chair of the Board.

Do you have professional expertise you could use to help a good cause?

- Are you passionate about animal welfare?

As a trustee you will have the chance to influence how we care for and prevent cruelty to animals in the local community.



This is a voluntary unpaid position. Typically, this involves a commitment of up to 1 day a week but on occasions can be more and will involve you in:

- Attending board meetings monthly, currently these meetings will be held virtually
- Meeting regularly with our staff and volunteers
- Completing actions between meetings
- Advocating on behalf of the Bedfordshire South RSPCA.

Keech Hospice Care

Trustee (with clinical experience)



Background

Keech Hospice Care provides specialist palliative care for adults and children with terminal or life-limiting conditions. Our mission is to provide the best quality of life for our patients and their families as they prepare for a dignified death. Our multi-professional approach involves medical, nursing, social, spiritual and emotional care and is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Access to our services is available to all, free from discrimination.

Role Purpose

The trustees of Keech Hospice Care are charity trustees for the purpose of the Charities Acts and are also Directors of Keech Hospice Care Limited and Directors for the purposes of Companies Acts.

As the Board of Trustees, the trustees are legally responsible, both individually and corporately, for the activities and governance of the charity. They are ultimately responsible for everything the charity does and how it does it. The overriding duty of trustees is to act in good faith within charity law and to make sure the charity pursues its aims (as set out in the governing document); uses its assets exclusively to pursue those aims; and acts in the interests of its beneficiaries.

Key Responsibilities

Board Members act collectively as a Board and are legally accountable for the activities of the charity and hospice. They share responsibility for the strategy and future direction of Keech Hospice Care and the effective and efficient delivery of its plans and functions.

Headway Luton

Trustee

Headway Luton support people in Luton and surrounding areas who have an acquired brain injury.

A brain injury can happen to anyone at any time. It can be life changing. But we are here to help people move forward with their lives.

Would you like to play a role in the continued and future success of our charity?

The Board of Trustee's main role is to ensure that Headway Luton meets its legal duties, remains solvent and is well run. We set the strategic direction of the organisation and support the management team with the implementation of agreed operational objectives. We also look at innovative ways to spread the word about the work we do. At the moment we are particularly looking for trustees with a background in HR, law or social care as this is where we have a current skills gap on the board but we welcome applications from everyone.



Luton Mediation

Trustee

Luton Mediation are a charity who have been offering a neighbour/community mediation service to Luton & surrounding areas for more than 25 years.

We are currently looking to strengthen our management committee by seeking new trustees with specific experience in fundraising, marketing or financial experience. We hold bi-monthly (every two months) meetings.

Hospice at Home Volunteers (Leighton Buzzard)

Treasurer

Hospice at Home Volunteers Leighton Buzzard offers a free service that provides strength and encouragement during difficult times by supporting families or individuals with life limiting conditions in their homes, giving the carer some time for themselves. We offer practical help where it is needed during a life-limiting illness. Support to clients, respite for carers, companionship, befriending and information.

A volunteer treasurer and hopefully Trustee too, is needed at Hospice at Home Volunteers.

The treasurer monitors month to month financial matters, producing a monthly report of income and outgoings. They would be responsible, along with the other trustees, for all the financial decisions at the charity. A person with previous accounts experience would be ideal.



Buzzer Buses (Leighton Buzzard)

Trustee – with Fundraising experience

Please note that this opportunity is also available for a volunteer, without taking on additional Trustee responsibilities.



What will you be doing?

To act as a Trustee, contribute to the Charity developing & maintaining a strategy and business plan to move Buzzer Buses forward to ensure its financial security and future growth. Trustees will be required to attend 6 Trustee meetings a year.

We are looking for someone who will take particular responsibility for increasing our fundraising activity, writing convincing bids and approaching Trusts, Foundations and other funders. To also promote more fundraising activity on an on-going basis to enable the Charity to continue and improve its bus replacement programme.

What are we looking for?

Ideally someone with experience of working within the charity sector, and who has experience of fundraising possibly through organising events, but also with the ability to research and write convincing bids to appropriate funders. To join a small friendly team of committed Trustees who wish to enhance the service we provide, ensuring financial sustainability for the future.

What difference will you make?

Buzzer Buses are very proud of the service they provide, offering a caring and personal transport service to the elderly and, or disabled of Leighton & Linslade who are unable to use public transport, or for whom no public transport exists. We enable our users to go to hospital or medical appointments, shopping trips or to visit friends and family. Our staff are committed and provide a safe, cost effective door to door service. All our buses are wheelchair adapted.

What's in it for the volunteer?

To join a small team of friendly Trustees, and help Buzzer Buses to move forward, plan their strategy and aims for the future. We are fully committed to the users of the service, and enhancing the service we provide. We improve the quality of life for the elderly and disabled people we serve.

Additional Trustee opportunities:

Click on the organisation name to find out more about Trustee opportunities:

[Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation](#)

BLCF is an independent, non-profit organisation established since 2001. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for local residents through encouraging local giving. Our Trustees play a vital role in the organisation and are the final decision-makers. The Board's main job is to set direction and have oversight of what's going on, offer the executive strategy, scrutiny, and support, to the employees. Contact: administrator@blcf.org.uk (Deadline: November 8th)

[Mind BLMK](#)

We are looking for Trustees to join our board who have an interest in improving mental health provision in the local communities of Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

The current vacancies which we require experience and strategic understanding in are: 1) Commissioning services for a local authority or Clinical Commissioning group; 2) Audit and risk management; or 3) Mental health clinical knowledge.

Along with these areas of expertise we are looking for:

- A commitment to the organisation;
- A wiliness to devote the necessary time and effort;
- Strategic vison;
- Good, independent judgement;
- An ability to think creatively;
- A wiliness to speak their mind;
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship;
- An ability to work effectively as a member of the team.

Volunteering safely

Keeping Safe whilst Volunteering

Thursday 5 November - Summary of new updates to [GOV.UK](#) coronavirus volunteering guidance

Existing [GOV.UK](#) coronavirus volunteering guidance pages [Coronavirus: How to help safely](#) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) volunteering](#) have been updated in line with the [tougher restrictions](#) which came into force from today (5 November) following the Prime Minister's announcement.

Where possible, people should volunteer from home. If they cannot do so, they can volunteer outside their home if they follow the [social distancing guidance](#) and no-one in their household has [symptoms of coronavirus](#) or has tested positive for coronavirus.

[People over the age of 60 and those who are clinically vulnerable](#) do not face any specific restrictions on volunteering and should follow the same guidelines as above. However, as this group could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus, they may need additional support to follow social distancing rules and minimise contact with others.

[Clinically extremely vulnerable](#) people can volunteer from home, however they are advised not to volunteer outside their home.

Where volunteers are able to volunteer outside their home (see above) they can:

- meet in groups of any size indoors or outdoors while volunteering
- travel to volunteer or while volunteering

Volunteer-involving organisations must ensure their workplaces meet [coronavirus safety standards](#).

This newsletter was produced on 06/11/2020 and follows government recommendations correct at this time. Please keep checking the [GOV website](#) for official advice and the latest information.

This email has been sent Community Action Bedfordshire. You are receiving this email because you registered your interest in volunteering via the CBC website or opted-in to be part of the "Volunteer Bank" when you registered on Volunteer Connect – you can opt-out at any time by un-ticking the box on your profile.

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Community Action Bedfordshire - www.cabeds.org.uk/coronavirus - volunteer@cabeds.org.uk

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