

Board Member Recruitment Advert

Help us to improve the lives of children with disabilities or additional needs across Surrey. We are currently recruiting a number of voluntary positions on our Board of Trustees.

We are a Parent Carer Forum. We are an independent charity, working across Surrey, that enables the **voice of Parents and Carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** to be heard in the provision of Health, Education and Social Welfare services. Our membership is over 2500 parent carers of children with SEND, and through consulting them, we aim to influence, advise and co-produce services with Surrey Local Authorities.

Family Voice Surrey recognises that people from different backgrounds and with different skills, attitudes and experiences bring fresh ideas and perceptions. Our new Trustees will come with a **variety** of possible experiences and skills and from different backgrounds: -

- **Parents of children with SEND** - i.e. parents that have direct personal experience of the issues we tackle – regardless of your working skills or experience,
- **Or: Working knowledge of the Education, Health (esp. CAMHS) or Social Care** sector, particularly with services for children with SEND.
- **Or: Experience of the charity sector and/or general transferable professional skills** - i.e. HR, Finance, Fundraising, Marketing, Operational Management skills etc.
- **Or: professional skill an insight to the political landscape in Surrey** and an ability to network and influence.

We value and harness difference and wish to make our services relevant and approachable for everyone. We particularly welcome applications from disabled and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) candidates as BAME and disabled people are currently under-represented on the Board.

If you feel that you fit any of the above, you could be the perfect fit for our team, (previous Board experience **not** necessary as training will be given).

As a Trustee you will get:

- Induction, training and reimbursable expenses,
- Opportunities to make important decisions & develop new skills,
- Opportunities to be part of a committed, capable team,
- Influence to shape Surreys SEND services,
- Opportunities to use your families SEND experience, or your professional skills or just your common sense, to truly make a difference,
- The satisfaction of being involved in something very worthwhile and important.

e.g. Last year our 'Preparing For Adulthood' conference feedback included "I came with a crisis, not knowing where to turn, and am leaving with some answers and a way forward for my son".

The expected time commitment is 4 Trustee meetings per year (held on Zoom, week-day evenings), one full strategy day, plus AGM and some ad hoc committee work. You can get more involved with our Charity too, if you wish.

For an informal chat please contact our Chair, Sally Allen at sally.a@familyvoicesurrey.org

To apply, please send an expression of interest and a CV to: claire.p@familyvoicesurrey.org or by post to: Family Voice Surrey, Connect House, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7LT.

Charity number **1175460**

Please read our [Trustee Recruitment pack](#) before applying.



Board Member Role Description

Location: FVS works across Surrey; trustee meetings will take place via zoom or at FVS offices in Leatherhead (subject to review).

Time commitment: four Trustee meetings per year (held on Zoom, week-day evenings), one full strategy day, plus AGM and some ad hoc committee work. You can get more involved with our Charity too, if you wish.

Remuneration: Voluntary, although reasonable expenses will be paid.

About the role: As a trustee joining FVS you will help us flourish as a CIO and make a difference to families across Surrey. Trustees do this by:

- ensuring FVS complies with its governing documents, charity law and other legislation
- ensuring FVS is financially stable and uses its resources for its charitable purpose
- actively contributing to the Board, giving firm strategic direction to the organisation
- acting as an ambassador for the organisation.

Trustees are expected to attend regular meetings of the Board and also to get involved in other ways such as supporting fundraising, developing strategy or working with staff and volunteers on projects related to the trustee's specialism.

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Trustees are appointed for three years and may be appointed for two subsequent terms.

Skills and Knowledge

- ability to motivate and inspire others
- ability to build positive relationships
- understanding of partnership working
- knowledge of the SEND sector
- skilled communicator
- ability and willingness to act as a SEND champion to a broad audience
- understanding of and commitment to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion.

Personal Qualities

- values diversity
- passion for making a difference
- good communicator and the ability to work as part of a team
- objectivity
- discretion
- well-connected community networks

