



PATCHWORK FOUNDATION



CHAIR OF TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair of Trustees at the Patchwork Foundation. This is an exciting and significant opportunity to lead an organisation dedicated to improving democracy and civic engagement for young people from underrepresented backgrounds.

The Patchwork Foundation was established to promote, encourage, and support the active participation of young people from disadvantaged and minority communities in British democracy and civil society. Since our founding in 2012, we have been working to break down barriers to political and civic engagement, providing young people with skills, confidence, and opportunities to actively contribute to society.

We are looking for an experienced, strategic, and highly credible leader who can champion the Foundation's work, advocate for our mission at the highest levels, and ensure strong governance, financial stability, and impactful programme delivery. This is a unique and high-profile voluntary role that will require commitment, leadership, and passion for the Patchwork Foundation's work.

About the Patchwork Foundation

Our Mission

The Patchwork Foundations' mission is to promote, encourage and support the active participation of young people from disadvantaged and minority communities in British democracy and civil society.

We believe that all young people, regardless of background, should have an equal opportunity to engage in public life. Our work focuses on building knowledge, confidence, and networks to empower young people to make a difference.

Our Impact and Programmes

The Foundation achieves its mission through four key areas of work:

1. Impactful professional development and political literacy programme

- o Our flagship Masterclass Programme provides a structured nine-month syllabus offering selected candidates the opportunity to develop professional and personal skills, engage with leading practitioners in British politics and public life, and build confidence in political participation.

2. Rare and insightful opportunities to experience democracy and civil society

- o Our #GetInvolved Programme connects young people with opportunities to take part in political campaigns, grassroots activism, and democratic initiatives, equipping them with the skills and experience needed to participate meaningfully.

3. Inspirational engagement events

- o We host high-profile speaker events featuring leading figures in politics, civil society, and the media. These events have reached over 30,000 young people, inspiring greater engagement and activism.

4. Powerful recognition programmes and events

- o The **MP of the Year Awards** celebrates politicians who have successfully engaged underrepresented communities. This initiative not only recognises positive engagement but also drives change in political representation and diversity.

The Role: Chair of Trustees

Responsibilities of the Chair

The Chair will play a crucial leadership role, ensuring that the Board of Trustees provides strategic oversight and governance to the organisation. They will also act as a key ambassador, advocate, and fundraiser for the Patchwork Foundation.

Board Leadership and effective governance

- Provide strategic leadership to the Board, ensuring effective decision making in line with the Foundation's vision, mission, and objectives.
- Ensure strong governance, financial transparency, and compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Support the recruitment, development, and succession planning of Board members.

Support for the CEO

- Support and mentor the Chief Executive, providing oversight and challenge while respecting executive responsibility.
- Ensure the CEO is accountable for delivering the Foundation's strategic objectives.
- Oversee risk management, ensuring financial sustainability and the long-term viability of the organisation.

Advocacy and external representation

- Act as a high-profile ambassador for the Patchwork Foundation, representing the organisation at key events, in Whitehall and Westminster, and across corporate, media, and third-sector networks.
- Leverage networks in Westminster, Whitehall, business, and the third sector to grow our influence and impact.
- Promote and enhance the reputation of the Foundation, ensuring it is recognised as a leading voice on democratic participation for young people.

Fundraising & financial sustainability

- Support the Chief Executive in securing funding opportunities, sponsorships, and strategic partnerships.
- Support the Foundation's fundraising strategy, actively engaging personal and professional networks to secure financial support and strategic partnerships.
- Ensure financial stability and sustainability by overseeing budgets and fundraising efforts.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking an experienced and dynamic leader who brings credibility, strategic thinking, and a commitment to our mission. The successful candidate will have the ability to provide rigorous governance, drive fundraising and financial sustainability, and act as a persuasive advocate for the Foundation.

The Chair will provide strong and empowering leadership to the Board and the charity, ensuring capable and effective decision-making that underpins stability, growth and development. You will ensure the effectiveness of the Board by maintaining clarity of vision, a focus on key strategic issues, and robust governance practices. As a critical friend and mentor to the Chief Executive, the Chair will offer challenge, counsel, and support, fostering a productive and collaborative relationship while respecting executive responsibility.

Whilst our new Chair will share our passion for social mobility and civic participation, we are keen to attract candidates with a wide-range of experience be it commercial, third or public sector or educational.

The ideal candidate will be innovative in their thinking, curious in their questioning and bring a growth mindset to share in our ambitions.

Essential Experience and Attributes:

- Proven leadership experience at a senior level, ideally in a Board or Chair role.
- A strong understanding of UK politics and the wider civic sector.
- Experience in stakeholder engagement, with the ability to build relationships across political, corporate, and third-sector organisations.
- Strong governance and strategic leadership skills, with experience ensuring compliance with Charity Commission regulations.
- Demonstrable experience in fundraising, securing sponsorships, or business development.
- The ability to dedicate at least three days per month to the role, including attendance at key meetings and events.
- A passion and commitment for social mobility, diversity, and civic engagement, with the ability to act as a compelling advocate for the Foundation.

Desirable Attributes:

- Prior experience of working with underrepresented or minority communities.
- Experience in managing financial oversight, risk management, and compliance in a charitable or non-profit setting.
- A strong public presence with the ability to engage and inspire a wide range of audiences.
- Familiarity with the challenges and opportunities facing the charity sector.

Commitment and Terms

- The term is three years, with the possibility of renewal for a further three years.
- A time commitment of at least three days per month is expected, with flexibility required depending on key events and priorities.
- The Chair is a voluntary position, though reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

How to Apply

If you are inspired by this opportunity and believe you have the skills and experience to lead the Patchwork Foundation, we would love to hear from you.

To apply, please submit via email to info@patchworkfoundation.org

- A CV outlining your relevant experience.
- A supporting statement (max two pages) explaining your interest in the role, how you meet the criteria, and what you would bring to the Foundation.

Please send your application to by **12pm Thursday 10th April 2025**.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact info@patchworkfoundation.org

The Patchwork Foundation is committed to building a diverse and inclusive Board that reflects the backgrounds and experiences of the young people we support. We particularly welcome candidates who bring lived experience and insights that align with the communities we serve through our programmes.

Thank you for your interest in the Patchwork Foundation. We look forward to hearing from you.