

Friends Without Borders (Portsmouth)

Chair of Trustees



A unique opportunity to champion positive social change and join our organisation as we deliver our vital services to refugees and people seeking asylum. As we celebrate over 30 years of service, this is an exciting time to join our dedicated and passionate board of trustees as Chair of Trustees. We are looking for someone with significant leadership experience to help develop and steer a transformative strategy, consolidating our strengths, diversifying our work and widening our sources of funding. We particularly welcome people with first-hand experience of displacement.

About Us

Friends Without Borders has supported vulnerable migrants in the Portsmouth area for over 30 years. We help people seeking asylum to access support when few other services remain accessible to them. We provide two ongoing projects which aim to problem-solve, reduce isolation and challenge the discrimination faced by our clients: our Drop-in provides advocacy and advice without appointment and our Access to Justice project provides legal advice.

About the Role

The Chair will work closely with the Trustee board and Client Services Manager to ensure the charity runs according to its statutory obligations and constitution. We are looking for someone who has excellent leadership skills, experience of strategy and governance and is passionate about the needs of refugees and people seeking asylum.

Key Responsibilities

- Contribute to the strategic vision of the charity
- Work with the Trustees to steer the strategic development of the charity
- Support the Board in ensuring strong governance, legal compliance and risk management
- Act as an ambassador to raise the profile of the charity
- Coordinate with senior staff to ensure good coordination
- Support the Treasurer in budget planning
- Facilitate the involvement of beneficiaries with lived experience
- Recruit new trustees
- Assist with the development of grant applications

Essential Skills

- Governance experience and ability to apply strategic management
- Experience managing and supporting staff
- Inclusive leadership style, good interpersonal skills
- Understanding of charity finance and broad understanding of charity regulatory principles
- Broad understanding and compassion for the challenges faced by people seeking asylum
- Commitment to inclusivity and knowledge of equity, diversity and inclusion principles

This is a voluntary role without financial remuneration. Reasonable expenses are paid. Board meetings are every 2 months in person in Portsmouth.