

Trustee Role Description

Help shape the future of integrative cancer care in the UK

About Yes to Life

At Yes to Life, we believe that everyone affected by cancer deserves access to information, support and choices that enable them to live as well as possible. For over twenty years, we have championed an integrative approach to cancer care, providing evidence-informed information and access to resources covering nutrition, wellbeing, complementary approaches, education and peer support alongside conventional cancer treatment.

Yes to Life is a small national charity with limited resources and a committed team of staff, Trustees and volunteers. We provide direct support to people affected by cancer while also working to increase awareness and understanding of integrative oncology amongst the public and healthcare professionals.

We believe it is important that prospective Trustees understand the organisation they are considering joining, including its scale and resources. Further information about Yes to Life's finances, governance, Trustees, accounts and annual returns is publicly available through our entry on the Charity Commission.

[View Yes to Life on the Charity Commission Register](#)

As we enter the next phase of our development, we are looking for passionate and committed individuals to join our Board of Trustees and help guide the charity's future.

Whether you have previous Trustee experience or are considering your first Board role, we welcome applications from people who share our values and are committed to making a meaningful contribution.

The Role

Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of Yes to Life.

Working collectively as a Board, Trustees ensure that the charity is well governed, financially sustainable, effectively managed and focused on achieving its charitable objectives.

Trustees have collective responsibility for ensuring that the charity complies with charity law, applicable company law, its governing document and relevant Charity Commission guidance. Trustees must act solely in the best interests of the charity,

exercise independent judgement and ensure that the charity's resources are managed responsibly.

Trustees are expected to uphold high standards of integrity and conduct, including the principles of public life – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Trustees focus on governance, strategy and oversight and do not become involved in the day-to-day operational management of the charity except where specifically agreed or required.

The Board meets approximately four times a year, together with an annual Strategy and Away Day. Trustees are also expected to contribute between meetings, including reviewing documents, responding to communications and providing timely input when reasonably requested by the Chair, Chief Executive or fellow Board members.

Trustees may also serve on one of the Board's subcommittees or working groups and are encouraged to attend and support key charity events where possible.

What You'll Do

As a Trustee, you will:

- Help shape and approve the charity's long-term strategy and future direction.
- Ensure that Yes to Life operates in accordance with its charitable objectives, governing document and legal and regulatory responsibilities.
- Ensure robust systems of governance, internal control and risk management are in place.
- Oversee the charity's financial sustainability, including approving the annual budget, monitoring financial performance, reviewing reserves and approving the annual accounts.
- Appoint, support, challenge and hold the Chief Executive to account for delivering the charity's strategy, while maintaining an effective and constructive relationship between governance and operational management.
- Ensure appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place to protect the wellbeing of those the charity supports.
- Contribute your knowledge, experience and professional expertise to Board discussions and decision-making.
- Act as an ambassador for Yes to Life, helping to build relationships, raise awareness and identify opportunities where appropriate.
- Declare and appropriately manage any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality regarding Board discussions and sensitive organisational matters.
- Work collaboratively with fellow Trustees to make balanced and informed decisions.

Trustees act collectively as a Board. All Trustees are encouraged and expected to contribute their views and provide appropriate constructive challenge during discussions. Once a decision has been properly made by the Board, Trustees are expected to respect and support the collective decision.

Who We're Looking For

We are looking for people who are passionate about improving the lives of those affected by cancer and who share our commitment to compassion, integrity, collaboration and evidence-informed practice.

We welcome applications from individuals with a broad range of professional backgrounds and lived experiences. Previous Board or Trustee experience is welcomed but is not essential. A comprehensive induction and appropriate support will be provided.

Essential

We are looking for individuals who demonstrate:

- A genuine commitment to the mission, vision and values of Yes to Life.
- Integrity, sound judgement and the ability to act in the best interests of the charity.
- Strategic thinking and the ability to consider the long-term interests of the organisation.
- An understanding of the distinction between governance and operational management.
- The ability to work collaboratively and contribute constructively as part of a collective Board.
- The confidence to ask questions and provide respectful and constructive challenge.
- A willingness to listen to different perspectives and contribute to collective decision-making.
- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- A willingness and ability to devote sufficient time and attention to the responsibilities of the role.
- A commitment to learning and developing their understanding of charity governance where required.

Skills and Experience

We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals with knowledge or experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Fundraising and philanthropy.
- Corporate partnerships and business development.
- Marketing, communications and public relations.
- Digital transformation, technology or innovation.
- Legal, governance or regulatory compliance.
- Healthcare, research or public health.

- Public affairs, policy or strategic influencing.

Applicants are not expected to have experience across all areas, and we also welcome applications from individuals who believe they can bring other relevant skills, perspectives or lived experience to the Board.

We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive Board and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, ages and lived experiences.

Board Culture

We value Trustees who are respectful, well-prepared and engaged. Our Trustees should be willing to listen to others, contribute their own perspectives, challenge constructively and work collaboratively towards decisions that are in the best interests of the charity.

We recognise that an effective Board benefits from different skills, backgrounds, experiences and ways of thinking. We are not looking for Trustees who all think alike, but for individuals who can bring their own perspective while contributing positively to the collective leadership of Yes to Life.

Time Commitment

The Trustee role requires a meaningful and ongoing commitment throughout the year. This includes:

- Attendance at approximately four Board meetings each year.
- Preparation for Board meetings, including reading papers and relevant documents in advance.
- Participation in one annual Board Strategy and Away Day.
- Involvement in a Board subcommittee or specific project where appropriate.
- Attention to ongoing Board matters between meetings.
- Reviewing documents and responding to Board communications within reasonable timescales.
- Providing timely input when reasonably requested by the Chair, Chief Executive or other Board members.
- Attendance at selected Yes to Life events and activities where possible.

Candidates should consider whether they have sufficient capacity to contribute actively to the Board, both at formal meetings and between meetings, before applying.

Term of Office

Trustees are appointed for an initial term in accordance with the charity's governing document.

Trustees may be eligible for reappointment for subsequent terms, subject to the provisions of the governing document, satisfactory contribution and the ongoing needs and composition of the Board.

What We Offer

Becoming a Trustee at Yes to Life offers an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of people affected by cancer while helping to shape the future direction of integrative cancer care in the UK.

We offer:

- A welcoming, collaborative and purpose-driven Board.
- A comprehensive induction and ongoing opportunities for development.
- The opportunity to contribute your professional knowledge and experience to the strategic direction of the charity.
- The opportunity to work alongside people who share a commitment to improving support and choices for people affected by cancer.
- Reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred while carrying out Trustee duties, subject to prior approval.

The role of Trustee is voluntary and is not remunerated.

How to Apply

If you would like to help shape the future of Yes to Life, we would love to hear from you.

Please send to miquel.leon@yestolife.org.uk

- Your current CV.
- A short statement explaining why you are interested in becoming a Trustee of Yes to Life and the skills, knowledge or experience you believe you could bring to the Board.

Applications submitted without a supporting statement will not be considered.

Shortlisted candidates will initially be invited to an informal conversation before progressing to a formal interview and assessment process.

Any appointment will be subject to Yes to Life's Trustee Recruitment and Appointment process, including appropriate due diligence, eligibility checks and declaration of conflicts of interest.

Together, we can ensure that more people affected by cancer have access to the support, knowledge and choices they deserve.