

Role: Trustee

Charity: Bromley Homeless

Charity number: 1186655

Remuneration: Voluntary role, expenses provided in accordance with policy

About Bromley Homeless

Bromley Homeless charity was created following the merger of two local charities, Bromley Homeless Shelter and LATCH (Bromley Churches Housing Action). The merger completed formally in April 2021.

The two charities came together with a shared vision which has been defined as:

A community where everyone has access to a decent home and no one feels their only option is to sleep rough

Our strategy

Our mission, as an expression of Christian faith is to provide support and positive intervention to empower anyone facing homelessness principally in the London Borough of Bromley to fulfil their desire for a safe and secure home and live a fulfilled life.

We deliver this mission through a range of services and activities operating year-round. Our strategic priorities have been set as:

1. Provide advice and advocacy to individuals over 18 to overcome a homeless situation
2. Provide timely and personalised support, encouragement and personal empowerment to end homelessness
3. Provide year-round emergency accommodation, access to health and wellbeing services and food
4. Provide access to housing through supported housing and hosted accommodation, links with housing providers and private landlords
5. Prevent homelessness and challenge negative attitudes towards it by raising awareness of homelessness and giving a voice to those experiencing it

The covid pandemic presented some significant challenges for Bromley Homeless and the people we help and support. The government's Everyone In initiative was a positive catalyst to ending rough sleeping for good. However, the challenge for local authorities and homelessness charities is adapting our service delivery, ensuring safety under new covid safety measures and supporting our clients to stay off the streets.

We are now seeing a significant increase in numbers turning to us for help, support and guidance either individuals who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless, increasingly due to the financial and mental health impacts of the pandemic.

As a charity we need to continue to adapt, grow and ensure financial and operational sustainability to support the growing number of individuals in need in our Borough and to do that we need a full and strong, multi skilled board to lead the charity through the uncertainty, challenges ahead and to capitalise on the opportunities available to achieve our vision and mission.

Operations

We have 5 part time members of staff who lead on the delivery of services and we are lucky to have enormous support from our large number of volunteers.

Services are mainly delivered from our service hub at the United Reformed Church in Bromley town centre but we have been looking at expanding our outreach services which has started in Orpington in the past year.

We have collaborative relationships with Bromley Council and GP Alliance and work closely together to support those in housing need.

The charity is funded by voluntary donations and grants from central government (mainly MHCLG) and trusts and foundations. Our latest accounts (pre merger) are available on the [charity commission website](#)

More information can be found on our website: www.bromleyhomeless.org

About the current board

On the merger the Board was created with 4 trustees from each charity and 1 new independent trustee. Our constitution allows for a maximum of 9 trustees. One of the legacy LATCH trustees decided to retire following the merger and as such we are now recruiting for a 9th member for our board.

The board has a diverse skills mix and we are looking for someone to complement and bring fresh perspective and challenge as well as a passion and desire to support the vital work of the charity in the community.

Overview of the role

Trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors, committee members or something else. They have ultimate legal responsibility for the charity's management and administration.

These useful guides will provide more information about the role of a charity trustee

[Charity Commission The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#)

[Getting on Board's How to become a trustee guide](#)

[Step on board, becoming a trustee guide](#)

[A Governance jargon buster](#)

Skills and experience required

Trustees come from all walks of life, from professionals to people with personal skills and lived experience and as a charity we benefit from a diverse mix of trustees, employees and volunteers.

We are looking for someone who can complement the skills mix of the current trustees and have noted below some of the attributes necessary for the role. We have also noted from our review of the existing board skills mix some of the skills/experiences that may be desirable in a new trustee to compliment the existing board skills. This however is not a definitive list and we urge anyone interested in the role to get in touch to discuss and find out more.

Necessary

- Understanding of the requirements of a trustee (first-time trustees are welcome and previous governance experience is not a requirement)

- Passion for the work of Bromley Homelessness
- Ability to allocate necessary time commitment to the role
- Willingness to listen to others views but not be afraid to challenge and share your own views for the benefit of the charity

Desirable experience in one of these areas (but not necessary)

- Lived experience of homelessness
- Housing or homeless support/advice
- Legal or property
- HR
- Volunteer management
- Change management
- Safeguarding
- Fundraising

Time commitment

You will be required to attend regular board meetings. These are currently held on weekday evenings, once a month and last approximately 2 hours.

In advance of trustee meetings time will be needed to read any papers or prepare papers for any matters you agreed to lead on.

Following the merger, the Board are reviewing the staffing structure, until this is complete some trustees have been providing operational support for example line managing staff, attending monthly team meeting, drafting policies, safeguarding, fundraising, volunteer management/recruitment etc. We expect that this involvement will reduce when we have an optimum staffing structure to enable trustees to operate at the strategic level.

The initial term of the role is 3 years but there is the ability to put yourself forward for re-election after 3 years for another 3 year term.

Contact

If you would like to discuss the role and find out more information please contact the Chair of the Board, Julia Poulter.

julia.poulter@bromleyhomeless.org

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter by email to

julia.poulter@bromleyhomeless.org

Closing date for application is 31 March 2022 and we aim to appoint a new trustee at our AGM in June/July.