



AIR AMBULANCES UK

SUPPORTING AIR AMBULANCE CHARITIES

INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF TRUSTEES





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Message from our CEO



Thank you for your interest in becoming Air Ambulances UK Chair of the Trustee Board.

Air Ambulances UK is the independent national charity supporting the lifesaving work of the UK's Air Ambulance charities, enabling them to save even more lives every day. Air ambulance crews bring the Emergency Department to patients who have suffered a life threatening or life changing trauma or medical emergency; providing advanced critical care to save lives.

This is an exciting and pivotal time in which to join as Chair. As a charity we have grown and diversified our income streams with a particular focus on corporate partnerships. We have recently been successful in securing national corporate charity partnerships with Kwik Fit and Briggs Equipment Ltd. With each mission costing, on average, nearly £4,000 the national support from all of our supporters will make a significant difference to the capabilities of all the air ambulance charities and help save even more lives.

Alongside this we have continued to invest in air ambulance charities by increasing the amount of distributions we make and are extremely proud to have launched the Jude Morris Innovation and Development Fund to celebrate and honour the life of Jude Morris, creating a lasting legacy in his memory. With the support and dedication of the Morris family and the Jude Morris Racing Foundation this fund will allow air ambulance charities to develop and innovate, helping to save even more lives across the UK.

We are focussed on outcomes and impact. To find out more about the work funded by the Jude Morris Innovation and Development Fund please visit www.airambulancesuk.org/the-jude-morris-fund

Our Board of Trustees comprises of an Independent Chair, four other independent trustees and four trustees who are elected by our air ambulance charity members. Our 'Saving More Lives Together' Strategy 2021-2025 is progressing well and we will be looking to review this in 2024.

We have a fantastic and dedicated small team which we have grown substantially over the last 18 months and all of whom are committed to our cause.

If you are excited by the opportunity to make a real difference to all of those who work in our air ambulance community, patients and their families and are looking for a public-facing Board role rich in complexity and opportunity, we would love to hear from you.

Best wishes

Simmy Akhtar

Chief Executive Officer, Air Ambulances UK



About Air Ambulances UK

Air Ambulances UK (AAUK) is the national charity supporting the lifesaving work of the UK's air ambulance charities, enabling them to save even more lives every day.

Air ambulance crews bring the Emergency Department to patients who have suffered a life threatening or life changing trauma or medical emergency; providing advanced critical care to save lives.

On average an air ambulance can reach someone in urgent need within 15 minutes. Anyone, anywhere in the UK can become a patient at any time. Air ambulance charities are collectively dispatched to over 107 lifesaving missions each day across the UK; each mission is funded almost entirely by the generosity of local communities.

AAUK raises national funds to invest in the air ambulance community and acts as the voice on issues of national significance. Our vision is that together we will ensure the best possible chance of survival and patient outcome for everyone in need of lifesaving pre-hospital care. We do this by supporting and championing the invaluable work of the air ambulance community at a national level.

We offer a broad range of membership services and fundraising partnerships, including opportunities to become involved in our fundraising, communication, risk, governance, environmental sustainability, and development programs, good practice, and knowledge sharing forums and committees, government lobbying on key issues affecting the sector, raising vital funding, commercial investment, national PR activities, campaigns, and events.

AAUK FORUMS

We deliver air ambulance charity member forums which provide a safe space for sharing of information, networking, inviting external speakers and collaboration opportunities. Membership forums include:



Our Vision



Together we will ensure the best possible chance of survival and patient outcomes for everyone in need of lifesaving pre-hospital care.

Our Purpose



Champion and support the vital work of air ambulance charities, enabling them to save even more lives and improve patient outcomes every day across the UK.

Our Values



TRUST

We foster integrity in all we do, in order to be an ethical and trusted charity.



COLLABORATION

We bring people, organisations and ideas together to maximise impact.



INNOVATION

We focus on innovation in order to continually improve the services we deliver and enable improvements in patient outcomes.



EXCELLENCE

We aspire for excellence in everything we do.



KINDNESS

We treat everyone with the utmost kindness and respect at all times.



Our Goals



TO INSPIRE NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

We will inspire commitment to the sector through raising funds, generating support and increasing national awareness of our cause.



TO ADVANCE PATIENT CARE

We will support and champion research and good practice in the sector by the delivery of projects and sharing of learning to improve patient outcomes.



TO BE A COLLECTIVE VOICE

We will become the trusted, national collective voice of the sector among central government, peer organisations, media and the public.



TO MAXIMISE SECTOR IMPACT & INCOME GENERATION

We will deliver funding which enables air ambulance charity development and become the leading central hub of mutual information exchange, support and advice for the community.



TO ACHIEVE ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We will achieve the highest standards of governance and compliance, ensure financial sustainability and will nurture our team, as well as demonstrate our impact.



Useful Information

CURRENT TRUSTEES:

- Amanda McLean – CEO Thames Valley Air Ambulance, elected Trustee
- Andrew Hicks - Independent Trustee
- Anna Perry – CEO Great Western Air Ambulance Charity, elected Trustee
- Claire Ashby Walters - Independent Trustee
- Daryl Brown - CEO Magpas, elected Trustee
- David Welch - CEO Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, elected Trustee
- Dr Matthew Willams – Independent Trustee
- Heather Benjamin – Chair - Independent
- John Christensen – Independent Trustee & Vice Chair

MEETINGS

The Board usually meets four to six times a year, sometimes virtually. The in person meetings take place at various Air Ambulance bases across the country. The People and Risk and Audit Committees' meetings take place virtually during the working day. In addition, the Chair will meet monthly with the CEO, it is anticipated that the new Chair will be able to commit to 2 to 3 days a month in total.

EXPENSES

The trustee role is unremunerated but reasonable travel, training and relevant other expenses will be covered.

Please note that our Governing Document states that an Independent Director (Trustee) must have had no involvement in (including acting as a trustee of or providing paid services to) an Air Ambulance Charity for at least one year prior to their appointment as a Director.

Chair Role Description

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute strategically to a charity dedicated to saving more lives across the UK.

We are looking for an individual, with previous charity Board experience, who shares our values, who will work with fellow trustees, and the CEO effectively to make a positive difference to patients.

Air Ambulances UK is looking for a strategic Chair who will take the time to understand the intricacies of our sector.

We are looking for someone who has time, is willing to challenge, ask difficult questions and constructively manage conflict whilst being equally willing to learn.

We want a Chair who strives for excellence and is excited by innovation without losing sight of the need to consistently get the basics right together with a focus and commitment to our core purpose.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES;

- Ensuring that board decisions are made within the remit of the governing document and the policies of the Charity.
- Planning the annual cycle of board meetings, and chairing and facilitating these to ensure their smooth running.
- Planning the agenda for meetings with the CEO.
- Developing membership of the trustee board to ensure that it contains the diverse range of skills, experience and knowledge needed to operate effectively, with due consideration for community representation.
- Key posts are identified and inducted in good time.
- Ensuring that trustees receive induction and adequate training to enable them to fulfil their roles.
- Monitoring the calibre, level of commitment and attendance of all trustees and not be afraid to appropriately challenge where necessary.
- Ensuring that the board reviews its own work and how effectively it operates; making sure to take any corrective action required.
- Checking that decisions taken at meetings are being implemented.
- Ensuring that the board reviews the work of the charity.
- Liaising with the CEO to keep an overview of the Charity's business.
- Providing support and supervision for the CEO, including annual appraisal.
- Ensuring proper management and control of the Charity's finances.
- Representing the Charity at national events.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each Trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach evidence-based decisions.

Main duties & responsibilities for all trustees

Each individual member of the trustee board has a responsibility to contribute to the discharging of the board's duties. They can do this by:

- Maintaining an awareness of the business of the Charity.
- Taking responsibility for their own learning and development.
- Attending, preparing for and taking a full part in meetings.
- Monitoring the financial position and ensuring that the Charity operates within its means and objects, and that there are clear lines of accountability for day-to-day financial management.
- Actively seeking to further the strategic objectives of the Charity, and acting in its best interests at all times.
- Maintaining confidentiality about any sensitive or confidential information received in the course of duties as a trustee.

AAUK is an inclusive organisation and strive to take on board different perspectives. We would encourage applications from people in the earlier stages of their careers and people from minority and other diverse communities. We are committed to treating all candidates equally regardless of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion, political beliefs or membership or non-membership of a Trade Union and look forward to receiving applications from right across our communities. What is most important is that you will have a passionate enthusiasm for the work of the Air Ambulance community.



Person Specification

EXPERIENCE

- An experienced and inspiring leader with demonstrable evidence of high level strategic insight and integrity.
- Previous experience in executive and non-executive leadership roles.
- Working effectively within a Board and Committee structure.
- Evidence of collaborative working.
- Demonstrable evidence of effectively chairing meetings.
- Experience of budgetary oversight and sound financial acumen including charity finance.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Sound understanding of the role of a Chair and Trustees including the relationship between Chair, the Board and CEO.
- An excellent understanding of governance and compliance.
- Ability to communicate in a confident and inspiring manner.
- Ability to effectively network and build relevant stakeholder relationships.
- Influencing and political awareness.
- High levels of integrity.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Integrity and commitment to Air Ambulances UK Vision, Purpose and Values.
- The ability to think strategically and horizon-scan appropriately.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a trustee.
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to Trustee duties.
- Excellent independent judgement.
- An ability to think creatively.
- A willingness to communicate reasoned and considered opinions in an appropriate manner at the appropriate time.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team and provide constructive thoughts and strategic direction.
- To not be afraid to manage conflict effectively and in a timely manner.



Recruitment Process

- Please apply by sending your CV and supporting statement to our Recruitment Partner, Jackie Dawkins of Shine Charity Recruitment (jackie@shinecharityrecruitment.co.uk). 01884/841751.
- Closing date 16th February 2024.
- An initial meeting via Zoom with Jackie Dawkins.
- Interview with the AAUK People, Rewards and Human Resources Committee – date tbc (interview expenses will be covered).
- The preferred candidate will be invited to attend a Board meeting as an observer.
- References and other checks will then take place before an offer to join the Board is made.

