

Become a McPin Trustee



**The McPin Foundation
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About Us

Thank you for your interest in the McPin Foundation and in becoming one of our trustees. We are a **mental health research** charity. We believe that everyone affected by mental health problems has valuable and unique expertise that can be utilised to **improve the relevance and impact** of mental health research. We call this expertise from experience.

We exist to champion the involvement of expertise from experience in all stages of mental health research; from **setting the agenda** through to user-focused **evaluation and dissemination**.

Our Vision

A world where the value of **expertise based upon experience** is recognised and is at the heart of all stages of mental health research.

Our Core Values

We passionately believe involving people directly affected by mental health problems improves research.

We are driven to produce work of the highest quality.

We are inclusive and listen to all opinions and perspectives.

We collaborate with others to deliver our mission.

We care about the wellbeing of everyone connected with us.

Trustees are an integral part of the charity. They are the people who are responsible for the management and administration of the organisation. You will join the governance structure – the board - that has overseen our organisation's growth over the past 8 years. We currently have 24 core staff and up to 60 bank and freelance workers at any one time. We actively recruit people affected by mental health issues into all roles in the charity.

We are based in London (currently home working) but support projects across England and in other countries. Over the next 2 years we need to develop our next organisational strategy—visioning ourselves post-Covid and with anti-racism central to our work.

In this pack you will find further information about the trustee role and details of how to apply. We are particularly interested in hearing from young people and people of colour with experience in the following areas:

- Young people's mental health
- Mental health policy
- Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Academics with an interest in patient and public involvement
- Innovative research dissemination and communication

Previous experience of charity trusteeship is not essential but it is important that trustees have a genuine interest in our work.

Role Description

We are looking for new trustees who are passionate about mental health research and the difference it can make to people's lives. As a trustee you would be responsible, alongside other members of the board, for the effective running of the charity. This leadership is vital and at the McPin Foundation we ensure the trustee group is a visible and active part of the organisation. The trustee group formally meets three times a year at the charity head office in London (or via Zoom). Trustees may also provide support in others ways such as chairing events or providing training to staff.

General Duties and Responsibilities:

Leadership and strategy

Trustees ensure the charity has a clear strategic direction with vision, mission and values articulated; review an annual strategic and management plan (including budget); and evaluate the performance of the charity.

Governance

Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and regulations including governing policies and charity law; manage the Research Director through the independent trustees group; deal appropriately with conflicts of interest; assist with hearing appeals as required under HR, complaints and internal procedures.

Resource management

Ensure the charity is well managed, and resources are used responsibly to best pursue the charity's objectives; ensure controls are in place to apply internal financial policies; oversee charity's assets.

Other general responsibilities

Represent the McPin Foundation and act as an ambassador; seek to promote our work where possible through your networks to raise the profile of the charity; help us develop and change including to become an anti-racist organisation; ensure there is no personal profit from the office of trustee unless relevant permission has been gained from the Charity Commission.

Time Commitment

Attend board meetings three times a year for 3 hours; join the independent trustees group which talks by phone/Zoom 2-3 times a year; attend events and activities with staff, usually once a year; correspond by email to make decisions in between meetings.

Remuneration

Trusteeship is a non-remunerated role. Training is provided, and expenses paid (travel). Trustees are appointed for a 3-year term which can be extended. Most of the current trustees have been on the board for over 3 years.

Person Specification

Trustees are volunteers, appointed for their experience acquired through previous work or voluntary roles as well as ordinary everyday living. There are no set requirements in terms of skills or experience but the following could be useful.

Knowledge

- Mental health and/or mental health research.
- Understanding of legal duties and responsibilities of trusteeship.

Skills

- Strategic vision.
- Effective decision making.
- Ability to work effectively in a team.

Experience

- Trusteeship or equivalent positions of responsibility or leadership roles.

Specific Expertise

We are looking for trustees with some specific expertise that matches one or more of the following roles:

People who have experienced mental health problems: We actively recruit people affected by mental health problems into all roles in the charity. We encourage people with experience of mental health problems to join our board.

Fundraising lead: We do not currently do significant fundraising but would welcome an enthusiastic fundraiser with good ideas to help us develop our income generation strategy.

Academic leadership: We are looking for experienced mental health researchers with a particular interest in patient and public involvement in research, including diversifying lived experience expertise including among young people, BAME communities, and LGBTQ+ community.

Communications and public affairs expert: We would benefit from someone who can advise on how to better use our work to influence policy decisions impacting the wider mental health research sector.

Diversity, equity and inclusion: We have a significant focus on wellbeing at work, staff development and organisational development in relation to equity and diversity. We would benefit from someone who can help us deliver our anti-racism action plan, and support further strategy development.

Young people: We would like to encourage people with expertise on young people's mental health to join the board, including young people themselves.

How to apply

To apply to join our board, please send us an up-to-date CV and a statement/cover letter explaining why you want to join the McPin Foundation as a trustee. Please highlight if you have any of the areas of specific expertise we are looking for in your application. Potential and passion are more important to us than a big CV. Our belief in “expertise by experience” means we would like to hear about your unique life experiences and why you feel they make you suitable to work with McPin.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity before applying, please do contact us and we will arrange a time to talk to you about our work.

It is important to note that pre-appointment checks will be undertaken to ensure that candidates have not been disqualified by law from acting as a trustee.

Requests to talk to us about this opportunity as well as personal statements plus CV's should be emailed to: clarewalsby@mcpin.org

Next stages

Closing date: 11/09/2020

We will consider all applications and respond to candidates promptly. We anticipate recruitment will take place in the following stages and is designed as a two-way process between McPin and trustee applicants:

Stage 1: Short-listed candidates will be invited to have a **telephone conversation** with the Chair of Trustees, Nick McNally.

Stage 2: Applicants taken forward will then be invited to a **zoom interview** including members of the board of trustees.

Stage 3: Recruited trustees will be invited to **attend the first trustee meeting as an observer** before confirming the appointment.