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**The Abbeyfield Belfast Society Limited**

**Trustee Recruitment**

**September 2024**

**Introducing The Abbeyfield Belfast Society**

The Abbeyfield Belfast Society Ltd has been in operation from July 1960 and has a history based around the vision of one man, Richard Carr Gomm, who had a vision that older people should not face a life of loneliness or isolation. He went on to develop a charity to meet this need and Abbeyfield Belfast became a member of that charity and brought his vision to fruition in Belfast.

The Abbeyfield Belfast model is to provide quality accommodation for older people, combined with a comprehensive support service that not only encourages independent living in later life but also encourages companionship and links to the local community.

Looking after the whole person, body mind and soul involves more than just support and our social calendar is an essential part of the week with inside and outside spaces that encourages residents to come together for companionship, activity and conversation.

Abbeyfield Belfast offers those in later life accommodation and a level of support, in our four houses, that maintains their independence and physical and mental well-being far longer than any other alternatives.

Experience has taught us that older people want to feel connected to their community, regardless of whether they go out daily, weekly or in some cases not at all and that’s exactly where our four houses are located, right in the heart of it, close to places of worship, GP’s, the local library, shops, cafes and public transport.

A Board of dedicated, local Trustees from various backgrounds, bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are responsible for the overall management and direction of the Society. They are supported by a team of 69 dedicated staff responsible for the smooth day-to-day running of our houses and service provision to our residents.

**Our Purpose:**

To provide a supported environment in line with local strategies, where people can

maintain their independence and flourish in later life and to address loneliness that

can be experienced due to a change in circumstance, health or wellbeing.

**Our Vison:**

To be the preferred provider for supported retirement living in later life in the Belfast area.

**Our Mission:**

To enhance the quality of life for older people.

# **Trustee role description**

The duties of a Trustee are to:

* contribute actively to the Board of Trustees’ role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy and defining goals
* to set targets, and evaluate performance against agreed targets
* ensure that Abbeyfield Belfast complies with and pursues its objects as defined in its governing document, the Articles of Association
* safeguarding the good name and values of Abbeyfield Belfast
* ensure that Abbeyfield Belfast complies with charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
* ensure the financial stability of the organisation
* ensure that Abbeyfield Belfast applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects, ie the charity must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objects, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are
* protect and manage the property of the charity and ensure the proper investment of the charity’s funds
* ensure the effective and efficient administration of Abbeyfield Belfast
* ensure the organisation acts within employment and health and safety laws
* appoint the Chief Executive and monitor their performance.

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 sound decisions.

Additional duties may involve leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives and other issues in which the Trustee has special expertise, and positively representing the organisation.

**Person specification**

Trustees, collectively and individually, have ultimate responsibilities for the charity. To be effective each Trustee must have:

* a commitment to the organisation
* a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort including attending meetings
* strategic vision
* good, independent judgement
* an ability to think creatively
* a willingness to speak their mind
* an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of Trusteeship
* an ability to work as part of a team
* appreciation of Nolan’s seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

**Contact**

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