

Board Recruitment Information Pack



Engage with Age - who we are:

Engage with Age (EWA) is a charity that was established in 2000. Its mission is to empower older people to live happy, healthy, independent, and more connected lives. We work with older people's groups across East and South Belfast, and individual older people across the city.

Every year EWA works with hundreds of older people's groups, and in 2022-23 had over 14,000 attendances/ interactions.

Engage with Age has commenced a new Strategic Plan 2023-26, and it is working towards a world in which all older people are respected, valued, included and listened to in society, and actively involved in shaping the world. Our values are: to be older people-led; empowerment; respect; working in partnership; and fun. As a community development agency, Engage with Age works in partnership with others to empower older people to make stronger and more connected communities.

EWA's strategic aims 2023-26 are:

- To empower older people to reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods.
- To empower older people to improve their own health and wellbeing.
- To strengthen neighbourhoods and communities by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums.
- To empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives.

We also aim to develop Engage with Age as an organisation so it is capable of delivering its strategic aims 2023-26.

To find out more, visit our website at: <https://engagewithage.org.uk/>

To access our Strategic Plan 2023-26, click this website link:

<https://engagewithage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Engage-with-Age-Strategic-Plan-2023-26-Final-Draft.pdf>

Please also visit our social media platforms:

 <https://www.facebook.com/EngageWithAgeBelfast>

 https://twitter.com/Engage_With_Age

To see our latest Annual Accounts for Year Ending March 2023 please contact Patricia Barrett, Operations Manager, on patricia.barrett@engagewithage.org.uk



Engage with Age - our activities

Our work takes the form of:

- Activity groups for people who have experienced loneliness and isolation, plus a telephone befriending scheme for individuals.
- Health and wellbeing improvement work with older people's groups which includes physical and mental health, creative activities, skills development and networking.
- Support of older people's forums and capacity building for groups.
- Empowering older people to advocate for their needs, including media work, consultations, and academic research.
- Promoting dementia friendly communities, including supporting campaigns, promoting activities, delivering training, and a dementia friendly artist in residence scheme.

Activity sessions include social events, walking groups, telephone befriending, exercise and relaxation sessions, t'ai chi, "Eat Well Bingo", iPad training sessions, creative writing, music evenings, The Slipped Disco™, crafts, and more.

Engage with Age directly supports the South Belfast Lifestyle Forum, Belfast East Seniors Forum, and the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum, which is the overall umbrella body representing older people's forums across Belfast.

EWA has a small staff team of 7 full-time and part time employees – 5 development officers (3 FTE and 2 PT), a part time Director and part-time Operations Manager. EWA also engages service providers for other functions including outsourced finance administration, communications, and an artist in residence.

EWA's main funders are the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. EWA has secured three-year funding from Belfast City Council and The National Lottery Community Fund, and is also supported by a range of other smaller trust and foundations.



Who are we looking for?

Engage with Age is recruiting Trustees to join our active and committed existing core of board members. We are looking for individuals who can contribute to the strategic leadership and governance of the charity.

We would particularly welcome applications from individuals with skills and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- **Health and Health Services**
- **The Age Sector in Northern Ireland**
- **Large Charities/ large scale organisations**
- **Impact Measurement**
- **Finance and Fundraising**

Engage with Age specifically is seeking to recruit trustees from BAME communities.

Please note that the above is not an exhaustive list and other skill sets and experience are welcomed. Engage with Age is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

The role

Person Specification

- A commitment to the aims and objectives of Engage with Age and to promoting the interests of older people particularly those who are isolated and / or lonely.
- Strategic vision.
- Good, independent judgement.
- An ability to think creatively.
- A willingness to speak your mind.
- The ability to understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a trustee and a company director.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team while contributing an independent perspective.



Specific Responsibilities:

- Ensure that Engage with Age complies with its Articles of Association, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulation.
- Ensure that Engage with Age uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives and does not commit resources to activities which are not included in those objectives.
- Contribute actively to the Board of Trustees in giving strategic direction to Engage with Age, approving Engage with Age's strategy and operational plan and monitoring its implementation.
- Ensure that Engage with Age has the resources needed to achieve its objectives, supporting the office bearers in ensuring the financial stability of the organisation.
- Appoint the Director.
- Support the Director and their staff in the performance of their duties.
- Safeguard the good name and values of Engage with Age.
- Comply with the standards and rules set out for a Trustee within company and charity law and within the Articles of Association.



What difference will you make?

This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in a small, well established organisation that has a great impact. You will join a welcoming and committed board and a supportive and caring organisation that holds older people at its core. You will play a pivotal role in the charity's future. In becoming a trustee you are helping empower older people in Belfast, some of whom are experiencing ill health loneliness and isolation, to connect with their communities, live a better quality of life, and enjoy themselves.

Practicalities

Where the board meet: Engage with Age undertakes online and in-person meetings. In person meetings mostly take place in the East Belfast Network Centre, where Engage with Age has its office.

Time of meetings: A mixture of daytime and evening meetings.

Time commitment: Meetings normally conclude within 90 minutes to 2 hours x 4 board meetings per year plus one AGM.

There are also opportunities to serve on our Finance and Operations subcommittee (x 5 meetings per year), Governance subcommittee and/ or other committees.

Some other additional phone or email contact may be required.

Expenses: This is a voluntary role. Board members will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence costs when carrying out Engage with Age business.

How to apply and next steps

Please submit the Application Form to Patricia Barrett, Operations Manager:

Email: patricia.barrett@engagewithage.org.uk

By post: **Engage with Age, East Belfast Network Centre, 55 Templemore Avenue, Belfast BT 5 4FP.**

You will be invited to meet with the Chair and the Director of Engage with Age to have a conversation with purpose in relation to how you meet the role description and the level of commitment you are able to offer in this voluntary role.

There will be an opportunity to meet the full Board before making a commitment to join the Board of Engage with Age.

