



Pioneering Family Charity Seeks Trustees

Voluntary role – expenses reimbursed

Streatham, London

“If there’s a parent in you, they’ll find it.” (St Michael’s parent)

St Michael’s Fellowship is a pioneering charity that in its 120-year history has touched the lives of tens of thousands of parents and children. We are looking for new Trustees with particular knowledge and professional experience working in depth with families in the children’s social care system as current trustees complete their terms of office in 2024. We are keen to recruit more trustees who have direct experience of being a parent in the social care system. This is to help us build on our successes and enviable reputation and contribute to the organisation’s future direction. We are seeking to increase the diversity of the board to better reflect the families we serve and to encourage debate and challenge to ensure the Board reaches the best decisions.

Context and purpose

- St Michael’s Fellowship’s purpose is to give children the best start in life by working with their parents.
- St Michael’s Fellowship (SMF) has two strands – it runs 3 residential family assessment centres registered with Ofsted and it has an active and important outreach service working with young mothers and fathers, running a contact service and offering individual support to families who have been assessed in our centres. SMF works in the boroughs of Lambeth and Wandsworth but families are referred to our centres from all over the UK.
- St Michael’s Fellowship has 52 permanent staff and a similar number of sessional staff. Annual income is £2 million.

Responsibilities of all trustees

- Inspection of residential assessment centres.
- Support and provide oversight of SMF’s purpose, vision, goals and activities.
- Approve operational strategies and policies and then monitor and evaluate their implementation.
- Oversee SMF’s financial plans and budgets and then monitor and evaluate progress.
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- Ensure that key risks are being identified, monitored and controlled effectively.
- Review and approve SMF’s financial statements.
- Provide support and challenge to SMF’s Director.

- Keep abreast of changes in SMF's operating environment.
- Contribute to regular reviews of SMF's own governance.
- Attend quarterly Board meetings, adequately prepared to contribute to discussions.
- Attend one strategy day and one training day.
- Use independent judgment, acting legally and in good faith to promote and protect SMF's interests, to the exclusion of own personal and/or any third-party interests.
- Contribute to the broader promotion of SMF's objects, aims and reputation by applying skills, expertise, knowledge, and contacts.
- To work as part of a team taking collective responsibility for the governance of the charity.

Essential qualities and attributes of all trustees

- Willingness and ability to understand and accept their responsibilities and liabilities as trustees and to act in the best interests of the organisation.
- Ability to think creatively and strategically, exercise good, independent judgement and work effectively as a board member.
- Effective communication skills and willingness to participate actively in discussion.
- A strong personal commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Enthusiasm for our vision and mission.
- Commitment to NCVO's [Charity Ethical Principles](#).

Terms of appointment

Terms of office

- Trustees are appointed for a 4-year term of office, with optional renewal for 1 further term to a maximum of 8 years.
- This is a voluntary position, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Time commitment

- Attending 4 Board meetings and 2 additional meetings annually. Currently meetings are held in person in Streatham, SW16 but joining remotely is possible.

Please send your CV, supporting statement and equal opportunities monitoring form to Sue@stmichaelsfellowship.org.uk

[Trustees biographies](#)