**Make a difference where you live**

For over 25 years we have worked passionately to develop the charitable sector in Essex, Southend and Thurrock. We want to create a culture of generosity and support, inspiring charitable giving to provide vital funding to voluntary and community organisations working at the heart of our communities.

On average each year we provide grants to over 400 large and small organisations who are meeting the needs of their communities and making a real difference for local people, with funds provided by over 170 donors and national schemes.

We are recruiting for a number of voluntary positions to join our Board of Trustees to help shape our work now and in the future.

Our Trustees tell us that they feel they can make a real difference through their involvement and applying their skills to support and develop our work. There are a number of skills that we don’t currently have on our Board, so you might be able to support us if you have one of the following skills: accountancy, digital engagement with stakeholders, marketing and communications, and legal skills.

We want to ensure that our Board better reflects the diversity of those who belong to the communities that we support and so we particularly welcome interest and applications from Black, Asian and ethnic minorities, people under 40 years of age, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ people.

This could be your first Trustee role, or you could already have some experience as a Trustee. We have a full trustee induction process, ongoing training, and a mentor scheme to support you through your first years.  You will have the opportunity to develop new skills and knowledge of the charity sector through participating in the work of our Board committees.

Our Board meets four times a year, and participation can be in person or virtually. Trustee positions are unpaid, but we don’t expect trustees to be out of pocket for carrying out their role, so expenses are paid.

Applying couldn’t be simpler, click here to let us know you are interested [link to website and application pack].

The deadline for applications is 5pm on **Wednesday 2 March**.

We would also like to offer you an opportunity to have an informal conversation with one of our current trustees and/or to attend an informal gathering of trustees to find out more about the role.

We look forward to hearing from you.