

Trustee Role Description

What is the Restraint Reduction Network?

The Restraint Reduction Network is new and already highly respected charity leading a culture change movement to eliminate the unnecessary use of restrictive practices. We work to create a culture of respect for the human rights of all people involved in education, health and social care services across the UK.

Our beneficiaries include people who are autistic or have a learning disability as well those with mental health conditions and dementia.

Our members are organisations and people who are committed to improving practice and reducing reliance on restrictive and institutional models of care. Our steering group includes government departments, people with lived experience, academics, professional bodies and providers.

Our supporting principles

The role of the Board of Trustees has and must accept its ultimate responsibility for directing the Restraint Reduction Network's affairs, ensuring it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the outcomes for which it has been set up.

Trustees focus on RRN's strategic direction and avoid becoming involved in day-to-day operational decisions and matters.

All Charities have a public benefit responsibility and in carrying out their role. RRN Trustees are expected to adhere to the Nolan Principles for holders of public office.

- **Selflessness:** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
- **Integrity:** Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
- **Objectivity:** Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- **Accountability:** Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
- **Openness:** Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
- **Honesty:** Holders of public office should be truthful.
- **Leadership:** Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Statutory Duties of a trustee

- To ensure that the organisation complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- To ensure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- To ensure the organisation uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects: the organisation must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objects, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are
- To contribute actively to the board of trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation

Other Trustee responsibilities

In addition to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help RRN's Board of Trustees reach sound decisions and ensure the organisation fulfils its objectives. This will involve:

- Attending Board and other RRN meetings (eg steering group meetings) as appropriate
- Scrutinising board papers and other communications
- Leading discussions and providing guidance on new initiatives, particularly in areas where the Trustee has specific skills, knowledge or expertise
- Abiding by RRN policies and procedures including the Safeguarding, Diversity and Equal Opportunities and Information Governance Policies, ensuring these are effectively implemented
- Participate in activities to promote RRN to our beneficiaries, funders and the wider public
- Contributing on other issues or areas of special expertise

Person Specification

- A commitment to the aims and values of the RRN including promoting human rights and reducing restrictive practices
- Ability to provide the level of commitment required for this role
- Experience of governance – desirable but not essential
- Ability to work as a team

Time commitment:

- Quarterly Trustees meetings (combination of virtual and face to face)
- AGM
- Specific project involvement as and when required by agreement