



GET ON BOARD AS A TRUSTEE AT WEST MERCIA WOMEN'S AID

Are you a woman who would like to join us as a volunteer Trustee on our Board?

The Board of Trustees is responsible for strategic direction, overseeing and governing, and is crucial for the effective functioning and success of West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA). Trustees are instrumental in ensuring that the organisation achieves its mission, maintains its integrity, and fulfils its obligations to its stakeholders and the community it serves.

As the leading regional specialist organisation, WMWA works to empower those whose lives have been affected by gender-based/intimate partner violence and abuse, providing a range of services in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, and Telford & Wrekin.

A Trustee role with us is one of the best contributions you can make to help us shape our strategy and monitor the effectiveness of the services we provide to support service users in West Mercia.

Our Board composition has changed significantly over recent years, and we are looking to recruit an additional Trustee who has time to commit to this valuable strategic role. The succession planning of our Board is essential, and we are committed to its continual improvement. We are keen to recruit women who have skills and life experiences that complement and add value and diversity to our existing team of Trustees.

Trustees on our Board are passionate and dedicated to our role and mission, to our governance and to providing strategic leadership. They work together as a team, have a variety of skills, talents, and life experiences, and come from all walks of life. Currently over half of our Board have lived experience of domestic abuse, and we continually strive to make sure we have representation. So, although not essential, we are keen to receive applications from women who have lived experience, or an understanding of, domestic abuse. Ex-service users are particularly welcome although at least two years must have elapsed since using our services.

To further support our Board succession planning we are particularly keen to receive applications from women who have governance or financial experience as well as those that would be comfortable, with support, to take on roles such as Chair or Vice Chair of the Board in the future.

We provide a comprehensive induction programme and support to new Trustees, both to develop their skills as well as to build up a detailed knowledge of our work.

More details can be found in our application pack, but the minimum expected time commitment for a Trustee is to attend quarterly Board meetings (usually 5.30pm) and at least one quarterly Committee meeting (usually between 10am and 5.30pm). Meetings usually take place on Tuesdays and last up to 2.5 hours. In order to participate, Trustees will need a considerable amount of time to read a vast array of Committee and Board papers prior to each meeting. Meetings are currently held online. In addition, we hold 'in person' Board Away Days each year and there are other activities and events that we would love you to get involved with such as training, quarterly staff conferences, or task groups. Some events are held in person and all out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

We would love to hear from you if you are passionate about helping us create a better future for those whose lives have been affected by domestic abuse.

To find out more about what is involved in being a Trustee go to
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

For an application pack, please contact Joanna Sanderson, Clerk to the Board of Trustees on 07985 731390 or email clerk@wmwa.org.uk.

Closing date for applications is Friday 2 February 2024.

Visit our website <https://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/board-trustees/> **for full details of our work.**

We are committed to ensuring that our Board is fully reflective of diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community. We will provide support as needed for Trustees to fulfil their role.