



Board of Trustees

Role Description: Chair

As the leading UK children's palliative care charity, Together for Short Lives has a vision that:

All children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions have as fulfilling lives as possible, and the best care at the end of life.

The Chair ensures the Board is effective, cohesive, and collaborative and plays a role as ambassador and visible champion for Together for Short Lives, alongside the CEO.

They play a critical role in providing overall leadership to the charity and the Board of Trustees in particular, ensuring the Board fulfils its responsibilities for the governance of the charity and enabling it to achieve this vision. The Chair will bring an authoritative and respected voice to Together for Short Lives, to support its work to improve children's palliative care for all children and families.

1. Governance

- Provide clear, engaging and confident leadership and direction to the Together for Short Lives Board of Trustees, ensuring the Board is fully effective in performing its strategic oversight and scrutiny role.
- Ensure the Board has the right mix of diverse skills, experience and backgrounds to govern the charity effectively
- Promote the highest standards of governance, financial probity, regulatory compliance and risk management, putting in place appropriate systems and framework to enable the Board of Trustees to monitor them appropriately
- Ensure there is an appropriate framework in place for delegated authority to Board sub-committees, the Chief Executive and Leadership Team.
- Regularly review the performance and the Board and annually appraise the performance and development of the Chief Executive
- Chair meetings of the Board, ensuring that all Trustees views are heard and valued and decisions and actions are implemented

2. Strategy and impact

- Ensure that Together for Short Lives has an effective strategy in place which delivers real and tangible impact for children who need palliative care and their families
- Lead the Board of Trustees oversight of the charity's impact, ensuring that progress is effectively monitored, measured and reported
- Offer meaningful support, stretch and challenge to the Leadership team, via a primary relationship with the Chief Executive, on a wide range of strategic issues relating to the direction, sustainability and impact
- Provide support, oversight and wise counsel on the development and growth of the organisation and associated change, transformation and / or strategic review as and when required

- Lead the Board's overall development including ways of working, culture and plans for trustee (and CEO) succession

3. Reputation and conduct

- Live and lead with the values of the organisation, placing them at the centre of the Board of Trustees' work
- Promote the highest standards of conduct, ensuring that trustees understand their responsibilities to meet the standards of the Code of Conduct

4. Relationships

- Act as an influential ambassador and advocate for Together for Short Lives and children's palliative care, in partnership with the CEO.
- Build and foster positive, productive and collegiate relationships between the Board (and individual trustees) and the Leadership Team and ensure that Trustees are appropriately utilised and engaged in pursuit of the charity's strategic priorities.
- Represent Together for Short Lives as appropriate at conferences, events and meetings, including with government and the media
- Promote a collaborative culture within Together for Short Lives with staff, children's palliative care professionals and services and families



Person Specification: Chair

Together for Short Lives requires a highly motivated and enthusiastic Chair with the time and capacity to lead the Board and who is above all passionate about improving the lives of children who need palliative care and their families. As we have a diverse range of stakeholders, the Chair must have strong communication skills and ability to build relationships with different audiences. Because of the specific nature of Together for Short Lives' work, the Chair must be a visible face of the charity externally and have the skills and knowledge of children's palliative care to command the respect of parents, professionals and services.

Experience

Essential

- Significant and credible experience in children's palliative care, either in health, social care or education.
- Significant leadership experience in a relevant organisation
- Experience of charity governance or other committees of comparable standing.
- Experience of strategic development in a rapidly changing organisation
- Demonstrable experience of effective engagement with key external stakeholders

Skills and Competencies

Essential

- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
- Passion and commitment to Together for Short Lives, its work and its values.
- High level of interpersonal skills and ability to build strong and productive working relationships with the trustees, Chief Executive and staff team.
- Excellent diplomatic, negotiation and listening skills.
- Demonstrable leadership capability and presence.
- Impartiality, fairness and a respect for confidences.
- Ability to chair and facilitate meetings effectively

Values

It is essential that the Chair embodies the values of Together for Short Lives and actively promotes them within the charity and externally.

1. **We listen to families and our work is shaped by what they tell us**
Families are at the heart of everything we do. We listen to children, young people and families and our work is shaped by their experiences and needs.
2. **We are compassionate and responsive**
We are compassionate and caring about everything we do. We are open, honest and responsive to the needs of children, young people and families, and everyone we work with.
3. **We will collaborate and bring people together**
We will bring the children's palliative care sector together so that we can achieve more for children, young people and families. We will work in partnership, collaborate, share expertise and bring a unifying spirit to children's palliative care.
4. **We are innovative, creative and will act as a catalyst for change**
We are innovative, creative and unafraid to challenge the status quo. We will always go

the extra mile and explore new ways of working to deliver the very best for children, young people and families.

5. **We are passionate and determined**

We are passionate, determined, and ambitious about helping children, young people and families to live as full lives as possible. We will not stop until every family gets the care, support and services that they need.