

## Merton Connected Trustee Recruitment Pack

### Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to consider applying to become a trustee at Merton Connected, the trading name of Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC).

Merton Connected has a great reputation for successfully supporting and representing the voluntary, community and faith sectors across the borough of Merton.

Merton Connected focuses on 4 key goals that the trustee board helps the organisation develop and deliver:

1. **Convening** – bringing people together
2. **Capacity Building** – strengthening and supporting the sector
3. **Incubation** – developing new ideas
4. **Amplification** – making voices heard

The work we do with the voluntary sector in Merton helps to ensure the sector truly has a position of influence in the borough. We work collaboratively with Merton Council, local NHS organisations and a wealth of other community groups in close partnership with the voluntary sector for the benefit of residents. This focus is only increasing within the borough.

Merton Connected has been developing and evolving in response to local needs and aims to continue that. We have a diverse and talented trustee board, have taken steps to improve the governance of the charity and continue to do that. The next stage is to seek additional trustees to join us.

It's a great time to become a trustee to join an established board and contribute to the next stage of Merton Connected's journey, so we hope you will apply.

### Who we are as an Organisation

There are 5 key business areas to Merton Connected, supported by a core team. The key areas are:

- Development
- Volunteering
- Social Prescribing
- Healthwatch Merton
- Merton Giving

The core role of Merton Connected is to be influential locally to represent the best interests of the voluntary, community and faith sectors. Our **development team** leads on direct support to existing organisations, including assistance with their bids for funding, strengthening governance and sustainability. The team also assists new organisations to be formed, with a particular focus on new charities that reach and reflect diverse community groups in the borough.

**Volunteering** has remained at the heart of Merton Connected's activity and in the current year volunteers have never been more valuable. We act as an intermediary to support both large and small voluntary sector organisations to secure healthy levels of volunteers to deliver their great work.

Merton Connected is proud to have helped establish the **social prescribing** model in 2016, which has now been adopted by many councils across the UK. Merton Connected holds the current contract to support all 22 GP surgeries in Merton Borough. The team were runners up in the 2020 national Social Prescribing Awards.

Merton Connected continues proudly to hold the contract for providing the **Healthwatch** service for Merton, which is designed to represent the voice of NHS customers at local level.

**Merton Giving** is a London based giving scheme that has distributed over £2 million in grant funds to Merton focused voluntary organisations.

### Board

- Chair, Judith Brodie
- Treasurer, Nigel Lawson
- Trustee, Asha Newsum
- Trustee, Jen Goddard
- Trustee, Emma Wiley
- Trustee, Wendy Pridmore

Find out more about them here: [www.mertonconnected.co.uk/about-us/meet-our-trustees](http://www.mertonconnected.co.uk/about-us/meet-our-trustees)

### Leadership team

- Tony Molloy, CEO
- Beau Fadahunsi, Head of Development and Volunteering
- Dave Curtis, Head of Healthwatch
- Kelly Walker, Head of Social Prescribing
- Amy Gee, Head of Operations

For more information, please visit our website [www.mertonconnected.co.uk](http://www.mertonconnected.co.uk). You can find our annual accounts on the [Charity Commission website](#).

## When we meet as a board

The board meets five times a year. We also have a finance sub-committee and specific working groups that meet as needed. Our preference is to meet in person for the full board, but committee meetings tend to be online.

## The Role

The role of a board member (trustee) is to use your knowledge, guidance and expertise to promote our continued development, growth and sustainability. Trustees have specific responsibilities which are set out in [The essential trustee](#), guidance from the Charity Commission.

The successful candidate will have a unique opportunity to make a real difference to the voluntary, community and faith sectors in Merton and the powerful work it delivers, often to those most vulnerable in our local communities.

The general role description and person specification are below. At this time of recruiting, we are looking to focus on marketing and communications, IT, digital and AI operations, income generation, and performance and impact - and are therefore ideally seeking individuals with experience and/or knowledge in these areas. However we actively encourage applications from people with a range of skills and experience who can make a valuable contribution to the Merton Connected Board.

### ROLE DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	Trustee
<b>Role Type:</b>	Voluntary – out of pocket expenses provided
<b>Time commitment:</b>	Four board meetings per year (plus a strategy awayday and AGM), as well as attendance at various ad hoc events, and on occasion subcommittee / working group

### Overall purpose of the role

- Champion the vision, mission and values of Merton Connected
- Work closely with all board members to ensure the board operates effectively, with positive trustee relationships and board/executive relationships
- Be a strong and effective ambassador for the charity
- Ensure that the charity complies with its legal and regulatory requirements and good corporate governance, in line with Charity Commission and other relevant guidance

### Strategy and performance

- Become an active member of the board, ensuring that the charity delivers real impact for its beneficiaries and partners

- Work with the board, the Chief Executive and leadership team to develop and monitor strategic goals and objectives, ensuring they are ambitious and deliverable
- Ensure that the board operates within the strategy, and provides a clear direction for the charity

### **Board effectiveness**

- Contribute at board meetings effectively and constructively, listening and respecting diverse perspectives and ensuring a collegiate approach
- Help develop the knowledge and capability of the board
- Contribute specialist expertise within the board and to add value to the wider Merton Connected team as appropriate
- Engage positively with the process of change within the sector which is continuously evolving
- Build strong relationships with other trustees to maximize the impact of the board in supporting the Merton Connected team, wider partners and ultimately local organisations and residents

### **Governance**

- Work within the charity's Articles and Board Code of Conduct
- Contribute to keeping the governance arrangements and underpinning policies and procedures for the charity under review, ensuring they are current and fit for purpose
- Ensure that the board fulfils its duties to ensure sound risk management and financial health of the charity, with systems in place to ensure financial accountability and control.

### **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

- Commitment to the values and ethos of our organisation, including willingness to represent the charity from time to time
- Sufficient time and commitment to fulfil the expectations of the role
- Good communication and interpersonal skills, welcoming of diverse perspectives and able to represent the charity effectively in external settings
- Clear understanding of the role of a charity board
- Able to demonstrate impartiality, fairness and the ability to maintain confidentiality and discretion
- Ability to command the respect of fellow trustees, Merton Connected team and partners
- Ability to think strategically
- Demonstrating good judgement and commitment to learning
- A team-player supporting the board to problem solve and take collective decisions
- Willing to use connections to advance the organisation where appropriate

## Further information

For an informal and confidential chat, please contact our current Chair, by emailing [chair@mertonconnected.co.uk](mailto:chair@mertonconnected.co.uk)

To apply please submit your CV and provide supporting statements via Charity Job