

Trustee Job Specification

About Challengers

Challengers is looking for 2 enthusiastic people with an interest in providing play opportunities for disabled children and young people to join as Trustees. We are looking for people in particular with entrepreneurial skills, digital marketing or experience of Trust and Grant application writing or assessing.

Challengers is a charity that gives disabled children and young people the opportunity to play, have fun, and make friends in a safe and supportive environment. The charity was established in 1979 and more than 40 years on, still maintains a vision of a world where all children and young people can play together freely.

As we emerge from a challenging period, the focus for Challengers over the coming years is building from our strong foundations. We have taken the opportunity to develop our previous strategy to one that focuses on both impact and sustainability, ensuring we meet our mission:



To provide truly inclusive, fun and safe places where all disabled children and young people can spend time with their friends. To offer a positive impact for families and the wider community.

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Why we exist

Play is vital for every child's happiness and development, but sadly too many disabled young people miss out on it every day. There are many barriers stopping disabled children from playing – from physical impairments and a lack of accessible play facilities, to simply a lack of time and support.

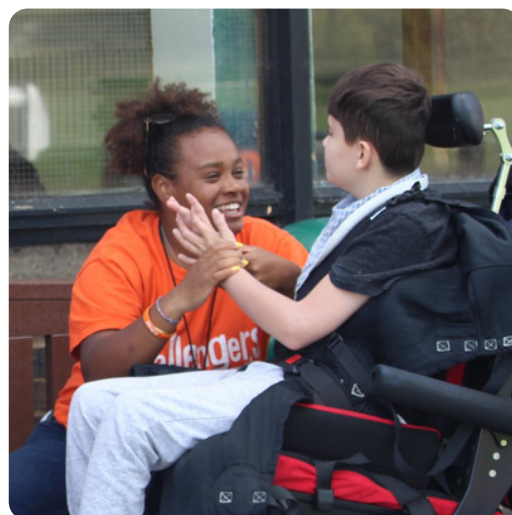
At Challengers, we remove these barriers by providing truly inclusive play and leisure opportunities that everyone can enjoy. We support over 1,000 disabled young people each year, and our non-exclusion policy means that we welcome everyone, no matter how complex their needs.

We welcome the move by some mainstream play and leisure providers to make their settings more inclusive, as this contributes to the charity's ambition around developing a more inclusive society. However, there continues to be a growing need and number of young people with more complex requirements who rely on Challengers for support.

The secondary benefit of our work is that our services provide families with respite from demanding care responsibilities. There is a great deal of research which shows that families with disabled children are often isolated, and under significant pressure and hardship. This was compounded during the recent lockdown, where 80% of parents surveyed by the Disabled Children's Partnership reported worsening emotional and mental health for both themselves and their children. Families who use Challengers have told us that our services are lifelines of support that keep their family strong and together.

Our charitable goals

We have identified three core goals that bring our vision and mission to life, using play opportunities to develop confidence in children and young people and ensure that every child can enjoy and experience play, and to facilitate families coming together to reduce isolation and to improve the quality of information and support available to them.



To enable our staff to develop skills and confidence through play

To develop a more inclusive society by challenging the barriers to play

To connect families together and enable a community of information sharing and support

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Overall Purpose

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, developing its aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines.

Prospective trustees must be over 18, DBS checked or be prepared to undergo a DBS check, and not disqualified from acting as trustee or company director.



Time Commitment

- Attendance at quarterly early evening Board Meetings (mix of face-to-face in Guildford and Zoom) plus the Annual General Meeting (usually end of November)
- Attend and help at a minimum of one event
- Participate in board sub-committees

Key responsibilities of the Chair of Trustees:

- Have a commitment to Challengers and its aims
- Sound judgement
- Ability to work collaboratively with a other trustees, but have independence of mind
- To support the CEO and to ensure that the Board as a whole works in partnership with them
- To represent the organisation at appropriate events, meetings and functions and to act as spokesperson for the organisation where relevant
- To offer decision support and help drive the current program of initiatives to deliver services more efficiently and effectively as we come out of the pandemic

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Our Ideal Candidate

We want to hear from passionate individuals, ideally with experience of being part of a Trustee Board or similar. We are looking for someone who will share our commitment to providing an expanding range of services for children and young people, combining empathy for the individual to drive the charity forward in an ever-changing and challenging landscape.

Specific skills we are looking to add are experience in entrepreneurship, digital marketing, and trust and grant writing and assessment.

Applicants from a broad range of backgrounds are encouraged, especially those with a lived experience of disability.

The Trustee is a voluntary, unpaid, non-executive appointment, but reasonable travel and other expenses may be reimbursed.

Our website provides more information: disability-challengers.org



If you would like to apply for this role, please send a current CV and a one-page summary of why you would like to be considered for a Trustee role to megandooley@disability-challengers.org

Closing date for applications: Friday 30th September 2022