

Chair of Trustees – Further Information

Introduction:

Grief Encounter offers free, specialist bereavement support services to children, young people and their families, who have experienced the death of someone close, through support and counselling. We work across both England and Wales and have offices in London and in Bristol.

We aim to give every child and young person a voice for their grief and access to help when they need it most, we understand children grieve differently to adults. Our experienced team of qualified bereavement therapists are passionate about providing individually tailored support, to help work through the grieving process and find ways through what might be some of their darkest moments.

Additionally, Grief Encounter brings the struggles surrounding childhood grief to the forefront in schools, colleges and workplaces, through raising awareness, education and specialist training.

Our Vision: A world where no child grieves alone.

Our Mission: To help bereaved children, young people and their families find hope and healing.

Our Values:

- **Belonging:** Through times of grief we deeply understand the profound influence of community. We honour heritage, diversity and important bonds that nurture our sense of self and our collective contributions to provide hope, healing and fulfilling lives.
- **Courage:** We're not afraid to face grief head on and tackle difficult conversations openly and honestly with others. This gives everyone the courage to freely express their emotions and actively participate in making a difference.
- **Dedication:** We dedicate ourselves to the lives of bereaved children and families. With unwavering resolve, we champion the needs of every child to shape hopeful futures with care, warmth and positivity, nurturing the past, present and future lives.

Our Objectives:

- To relieve some of the emotional distress caused to children by the death of a parent or significant other.
- To improve the long-term emotional and psychological health and well-being of bereaved children, young people and their families.
- To raise awareness of issues for bereaved children and young people and promote the value of bereavement support.

What we are looking for:

- Proven experience in a senior leadership role, preferably in the charity sector or with organizations focused on mental health, education, or social care.

- Strong understanding of governance, financial management, and strategic planning in a non-profit context.
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to inspire and engage a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Demonstrated passion for supporting bereaved children and families, with a commitment to advancing their needs.
- A track record of successful relationship-building and influence within organizational or community settings.
- A strong personal commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

Grief Encounter actively promotes equality of opportunity for all and encourages applications from a wide range of candidates. To enable us to deliver our work to the best of our abilities and to live our values, we particularly welcome applications from diverse backgrounds, with a particular emphasis for people from Black, Asian minority ethnic backgrounds, women, the LGBTQ+ community and disabled people, who are significantly under-represented on our Board. In addition, we particularly encourage applications from those with lived experience of childhood bereavement.

Role of our Board of Trustees:

The main role of the Board is determine the charity's mission and purpose and guard the charity's ethos and values.

Trustees, including the Chair of Trustees, are appointed for a four year term and can serve consecutive terms. Trustees serving on Grief Encounter's Board would usually be expected to be able to commit a minimum of between 5 and 10 days per year to the role

Board members are asked to attend 4 Board Meetings (normally half days and held in Central London), plus a Strategic Planning Day each year. Trustees also take part in specific committee functions, dependent of individual Trustee experience and availability (Clinical, Risk and Audit, Finance and Legal Governance). Each committee Chair briefs the Chair of Trustees prior to every board meeting, with additional debriefs at other times, as appropriate.

An Enhanced DBS clearance is required for this post, which will be processed by Grief Encounter on your behalf. We provide a mandatory induction and on-boarding training programme.

The role of trustee is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

Application process

To apply, please send your CV and an expression of interest (max. 2 A4 pages), outlining your interest in the role and how you meet the requirements of the role of Chair of Trustees to our dedicated recruitment email address hr.admin@griefencounter.org.uk for the attention of our Head of Human Resources: Louise King:



We welcome applications from across the U.K.

We are looking to fill this role as soon as possible and will cease advertising once a suitable candidate has been selected. Please do not delay in submitting your application if you feel you have the right skills and experience to become our next Chair of Trustees.

Further information about Grief Encounter can be found by visiting us online: [Website: www.griefencounter.org.uk](http://www.griefencounter.org.uk)

For information on our current Board members please go to: www.griefencounter.org.uk/trustees/

Thank you for your interest in our work.