

Board of Trustees: Trustee

About the Discovery College

We're a small youth mental health project with big ideas, drawing from the international Discovery College model to create something new and innovative. We support children and young people with their mental health and wellbeing by helping them to learn about what's happening to them, share experiences, and develop skills and tools to stay well, and we support the adults around them to better understand too. We're all about peer learning – nothing clinical, no talking therapies, just exploring and finding ways to manage together. All of our programmes are co-produced - this means that they're designed and delivered by both people with professional expertise and people with lived experience of mental health problems or of being a carer.

About the role

We're currently moving into an exciting period as we look to expand our services in 2022 – we're very early in our journey as an organisation, so our newly formed board of trustees have a unique opportunity to help set our direction. The role of all of our Trustees is to help shape strategy, and to provide both support and scrutiny. The board must always act in the best interests of Oxfordshire Discovery College.

Specifics of the role:

- Ensure the charity operates in line with its governing document (its Constitution), charity law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Ensure the charity is always working towards its charitable objects, as defined in its Constitution
- Ensure the charity uses its resources appropriately, and only in working to achieve its charitable objects
- Contribute actively and fully to the Board of Trustees in activities such as setting strategic direction, developing policy, defining goals and being a 'critical friend' to the CEO and wider organisation
- Champion and safeguard the reputation of the Discovery College
- Work to ensure financial stability and sustainability.
- Contribute your particular skill set and expertise as appropriate, for instance by leading discussions, identifying relevant issues, and providing advice and guidance.

Person Specification

We're looking to develop a well-rounded and diverse board with a range of skills and experience. This may include:

- Lived experience (self)
- Lived experience (parent/carer)

- Mental health professional/clinician
- Marketing/communications
- Business development
- Third sector
- Philanthropy/fundraising
- Co-production
- HR

Personal qualities, skills and experience

- Demonstrate a strong passion and commitment to the goals and aims of the Oxfordshire Discovery College and its strategic objectives
- Good time management skills and the capacity to dedicate sufficient time to the charity
- Ability to work in a team environment and share a commitment to co-production
- Capable of seeing 'the big picture'
- Strong commitment to equality and diversity
- Confidence to challenge decisions when appropriate or to present recommendations that may be unpopular
- Commitment to keeping up-to-date with developments relevant to your area of expertise
- Board of Trustees experience

Other information

- Meetings will be held approximately monthly, and meetings are currently facilitated on Zoom
- The role requires approximately 4-6 hours work per month, but due to us being a newly-formed charity this work may increase initially whilst we establish ourselves
- Trustees are expected to serve for an initial period of three years
- This is an unpaid position and only out of pocket expenses can be reimbursed

This role description may change over time in line with the needs of the charity, through discussion with the Chair of Trustees.