



**Chair of Trustees**  
**Yorkshire Cancer Research**

# Welcome

Thank you for your interest in becoming our new Chair.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is the largest regional independent cancer charity in England and everything we do is in service to the people of Yorkshire – funding research and developing services that saves lives. This is a particularly important time for us as we seek a new Chair to lead us into our next strategic phase.

In Yorkshire, you're more likely to get cancer and are more likely to die from it than in most other regions in England. With cancer services under significant pressure we have ambitious targets for the future. Furthermore, inequality in outcomes within the county are significant and we are determined to reduce this inequality through a wide ranging programme of research-led work. In the past five years we have transformed as a charity and in the next exciting period of our development our ambition is to see even greater growth in our reach and impact, in particular addressing the significant inequalities which exist within Yorkshire and as a county as a whole.

We have an effective and experienced Board and a high performing senior leadership team headed by our Chief Executive Dr Kathryn Scott. We are seeking an experienced Chair who can lead our Board and support our Chief Executive to drive our Charity's growth and impact. You will be an ambitious and visionary leader with a strong track record of leading complex organisations through change. We are open to your professional background, as long as you bring effective governance experience, strategic thinking, strong commercial acumen and a commitment to improving Yorkshire's cancer landscape and preventing, diagnosing and treating cancer across Yorkshire. This is an informal yet effective Board and you will be a low ego Chair who will embrace the role with energy and inspire all of us within Yorkshire Cancer Research to play our part in saving more lives in Yorkshire.

We are actively committed to increasing the diversity of our teams and welcome applications from all sectors and backgrounds. If, having considered this brief, you believe you have the skills and qualities we are looking for, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

**Sandra Dodson**

**Deputy Chair**

# Background

Yorkshire Cancer Research is the largest regional independent cancer charity in England. With an ambitious goal of saving 2000 lives a year, it is an exciting time to be joining the Charity. Every week in Yorkshire almost 600 people are told they have cancer, and the Charity works to ensure these people have access to ground-breaking research and world-leading treatments to give them the best possible chance of survival. Yorkshire Cancer Research exists to change this.

Yorkshire is big, beautiful and diverse and, as an inclusive organisation, our aim is that our Trustees reflect the rich diversity of our region. We offer equal opportunities regardless of race, religion or belief, age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnerships.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is entering an exciting period in its development as it approaches its centenary year in 2025. The Charity is well-funded with strong income from legacies, fundraising and investments as well as significant income from a revenue sharing stream from a class of drugs known as PARP inhibitors, discovered using Charity research funding 20 years ago. More detail on the Charity's financial position is given in the latest Annual Report & Financial Statements to be found at: <http://yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk/perch/resources/admin/yorkshire-cancer-research-annual-report-and-financial-statement-2019-20.pdf>

The Charity has an ambitious and stretching fundraising objective to be able to invest £100m over 10 years to tackle the region's biggest cancer issues. The background to this exciting strategy is outlined in more detail on the Charity's website: <http://yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk/strategy-and-objectives>

The current Chair, Graham Berville, has steered Yorkshire Cancer Research successfully through a period of growth and progression, overseeing the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Dr Kathryn Scott, the development of a revised strategy and a refreshed Trustee Board against a backdrop of a global pandemic.

The current Chair is due to step down once their final term expires in November 2022. Ideally, the new Chair will be identified and formally appointed by the full Board at its meeting in September 2022.

This is a particularly important and exciting time at which to be joining Yorkshire Cancer Research as it embarks on an ambitious and defining period in its history. The Charity has commenced a significant expansion of its retail network with plans to open 16 new shops in the next 4 years. It is investing in its digital capability recognising the growing importance of this channel. Plans have been approved for the relocation of the current head office to a new site which will incorporate a patient wellbeing centre, a Yorkshire Cancer Research Charity shop, donation centre and a café hub; building a community of patients, supporters, donors and employees.

## The Board

The Board of Trustees comprises the Chair, Deputy Chair, Sandra Dodson, and 10 Trustees. The Board meets four times a year and may also hold an annual Strategy / Board Development Away Day. The Board works through a committee structure currently, with six committees each taking a detailed role in a significant area of the Charity's operations.

# Job description

**Job title:** Chair of Trustees

**Direct reports:** Chief Executive and Trustee Board Members

## Role purpose

The overall role of the Chair is to ensure that the Charity develops and progresses in line with its stated aims and objectives, whilst ensuring proper and appropriate governance. The Chair will ensure that the Board as a whole works effectively and will provide strategic leadership, working closely with the Trustee Board and Chief Executive.

The key roles of the Chair are to:

- Ensure the Board fulfils the aims and objectives of the Charity.
- Provide leadership and strategic direction to the Board of Trustees.
- Ensure effective Board Committee performance.
- Provide support, challenge, guidance and encouragement to the Chief Executive.
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion across the Charity.
- Ensure the Charity operates to the highest standards of compliance and governance.
- Act as an ambassador and figurehead for the Charity.

It is the Chair's duty to ensure that the Board is able to fulfil its responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the Charity.

The Chair will ensure that the Charity complies with its governing document, Charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations. The Chair should ensure that the Charity pursues its objectives as defined in its governing document.

## Main responsibilities of the Chair

- Providing strategic direction, by demonstrating appropriate leadership for the Trustees and the Chief Executive, to develop, shape or refresh its strategy.
- Acting as a partner with the Chief Executive (and Directorate) at the heart of the Charity, supporting and supervising the Chief Executive and acting as a channel of communication between the patients, supporters, employees and the Board of Trustees.
- Taking responsibility for appointing, developing and appraising the Chief Executive and input, as appropriate, to the review of the Directorate.
- Ensuring good and effective governance. Facilitating and sustaining Board processes, including leading on implementing and improving governance practice and ensuring that appropriate information is available for the Board of Trustees to consider in a timely manner.
- Effective planning, management and development of the Board and its capability, including board succession.
- Supporting Board Committee Chairs and ensuring effective Board Committee performance.
- Lead on the development of the Board of Trustees and remain focused on succession planning, recruiting and developing Board members. Ensure appropriate reviews are undertaken of the Board and Board Committee effectiveness, and handle conflict within the Board and mediate where necessary.
- Act as a figurehead for the Charity, e.g. represent the Charity at functions, meetings and with external media, make the connections and influence at a senior level in partner and other stakeholder organisations.
- Ensuring the Charity upholds its commitments to beneficiaries, donors and supporters across Yorkshire.
- Acting as an ambassador and figurehead for the Charity and demonstrating close alignment with the Charity values.
- Supporting and helping the Charity develop through engaging with key stakeholders and partners. Helping to identify and develop new opportunities for increasing fundraising, influence and impact.

# Person specification

## Knowledge, experience, skills and abilities

- Experienced Chair with an impressive track record of strategic leadership in organisations of varying scale, complexity and diversity which have undergone significant change.
- Experience of the public/private interface – ideally with the health/medical sector.
- Excellent understanding of good governance and ideally some experience of working in, or with, not for profit/charities.
- Integrity, strategic vision and good independent judgment.
- An effective networker and relationship builder with excellent communication and influencing skills. The ability to act as an Ambassador for the Charity and to expand its influence.
- Strong communication skills, articulate, persuasive and diplomatic with good financial acumen.
- Strong leadership ability.
- Ability to form a cohesive and highly functioning team.
- Preparedness and ability to make available as much time as is necessary to ensure the effective leadership of the Charity.
- The time and flexibility to take on this role and ideally, be based in Yorkshire.

## Personal style and attributes

- A strong commitment to cancer patients and to prevent, identify and treat cancer across the whole of Yorkshire.
- A person of absolute integrity, significant stature and standing who will command the respect of diverse stakeholders in the region and more widely.
- A strong personal commitment to improving equality and diversity.
- An inclusive leadership style and personal approach that fits with the values and culture of the Charity, able to bring together disparate views and interests and ensure that the Board works effectively as a whole.
- Enthusiasm/passion for the cause and the Charity's ambition/ethos.
- Decisive and clear in approach.
- Resilient and robust.

# Terms of appointment & How to apply

This is an unremunerated role which requires a time commitment of around three days a month. All appointments are for an initial three-year term, renewable to up three times.

The Charity is headquartered in Harrogate where Board of Trustees meetings are usually held.

## **Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I)**

Yorkshire Cancer Research is for everyone and we want our Board to reflect the diversity of the community we serve. We are particularly keen to attract candidates who may bring lived experience of living with cancer.

We hope you will consider making an application. If you have questions about the appointment and would find it helpful to have an informal conversation, please contact Juliet Brown on [juliet.brown@starfishsearch.com](mailto:juliet.brown@starfishsearch.com) and we will be happy to arrange a call.

To make an application, please go to <https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/yorks-cancer-chair/> and click on the apply now button, with the following prepared:

- Your CV (no more than three sides).
- A supporting statement (no more than two sides) that sets out why you think this role is the right move for you and how you meet the knowledge and experience criteria.

We would also be grateful if you would also complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form on the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.