



Chair for Asthma + Lung UK



Welcome



Thank you for your interest in becoming Chair of Asthma + Lung UK.

Asthma + Lung UK was launched on 28 February 2022 to rebrand and refocus the partnership created by the 2020 merger of the UK's two leading respiratory charities - Asthma UK, and the British Lung Foundation.

Together, we are now a more powerful force for lung health, twice the passion, twice the power, one united voice. Last year we raised around £15m. We are ambitious about our plans to raise more now we have joined forces, so that we can have an even greater impact on people with lung conditions and be the driving force behind the transformation of lung health.

As Asthma + Lung UK, we have a bold new strategy to help us raise awareness of the seriousness of lung conditions and tackle misconceptions, invest in even more ground-breaking research, support more people through our helpline, health advice and support groups, and campaign for change to improve the lives of everyone with a lung condition.

This is a pivotal point in our journey - especially for those who depend on our voice, our expertise and our research. And the importance of our role has been brought into even sharper relief as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Research is urgently needed to find ways of limiting the impact of the virus, and we have a part to play. Overall lung health isn't where it should be. Our respiratory death rates in the UK are the worst in Western Europe, with mortality from lung disease seven times higher in the poorest communities compared with the richest. We have a key role to play in driving improvements.

We are looking for an exceptional Chair to lead our Board and support our Chief Executive to drive A+LUK's growth and impact.

Most importantly, you will be an ambitious and visionary leader with a strong track record of leading growth and change. You'll be a strong communicator who will embrace the role with energy and inspire us all to play our part.

We are open to professional background, as long as you bring effective governance experience, strategic thinking, strong commercial acumen and a commitment to our vision for a world where everyone has healthy lungs.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our teams and welcome applications from all sectors and backgrounds and require a Chair who supports this commitment.

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.

Baroness Blackstone, outgoing Chair

A+LUK in brief



We have a long history, stretching all the way back to 1927, and the founding of the Asthma Research Council. In 1989 we became the National Asthma Campaign, which in turn became Asthma UK in 2004.

The British Lung Foundation has been advocating, researching, and supporting people with lung conditions for over 30 years. At the start of 2020, Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation merged to improve the lives of people affected by lung conditions. We kept our external identities separate while we integrated the organisations and set out our first combined strategy.

Now, as Asthma + Lung UK, our vision is for a world where everyone has healthy lungs. A world where lung health is prioritised through better understanding, research, treatment and support. We are dedicated to helping create a world where good lung health and the ability to breathe freely are a basic right enjoyed by all.

Our mission is **to be the driving force behind the transformation of lung health.**

This starts with shifting perceptions, so people realise that lung health affects us all. Infections like COVID-19, influenza and pneumonia can strike anyone down and leave them fighting for breath. And having to fight for breath affects every aspect of a person's life: relationships, work, finances and interests.

Transforming lung health means exploring every opportunity in the quest for new treatments, radically improving diagnosis and care for people with lung conditions. We've invested more than £50 million in research to date, and in the last year more than £1.8 million into vital lung research.

We'll also transform lung health by cleaning up the air we breathe so that we can all breathe clean air, and the poorest in society aren't paying the heaviest price. Every two minutes in the UK a baby is born in an area with dangerously polluted air, putting them at risk of developing a lung condition from their very first breath.

From research and campaigning to advice and support, as the nation's lung charity we are on a mission to change the way that lung health is perceived.

You can find out more about our organisation, our Trustees, and our Executive Team by visiting:
<https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/who-we-are/>



Role Profile



The role of Chair is to provide inspiring leadership and effective governance to the charity. The Trustee Board is responsible for setting the strategic aims, objectives and direction of A+LUK, delegating day-to-day management to an executive team led by the Chief Executive, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

The Chair ensures the Board is effective, cohesive, and collaborative and acts as an ambassador and visible champion for A+LUK alongside the CEO.

Leadership

- Provide clear and engaging leadership to the charity and its Board, ensuring that A+LUK maximises its impact for its beneficiaries.
- Ensure that the Board has the necessary range of skills, expertise and life experiences, encouraging all Trustees to contribute and ensuring challenge, scrutiny and diversity of perspectives are welcomed.
- Safeguard the reputation of A+LUK, upholding the values of the charity by example.
- Ensure that the Board operates within its charitable objects and provides a clear strategic direction for the charity.
- Ensure that the Board fulfils its duties and responsibilities to ensure the sound financial health of the charity, with systems in place to ensure financial accountability.
- Lead in the annual appraisal of the Chief Executive, support her and delegate the day-to-day management of the organisation to the CEO and senior team.

Governance

- Ensure that the governance arrangements are effective, including the sub-committees, and that the Board regularly reviews major risks and associated opportunities; satisfying itself that systems are in place to manage and mitigate risks.
- Chair meetings of the Board of Trustees effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity into the decision-making process.
- Ensure policy, financial and regulatory compliance is maintained in all areas of operation and engage the Board in risk identification and management.
- Ensure the Board of Trustees is regularly refreshed and incorporates the right balance of skills, knowledge and experience needed to govern the charity effectively.
- Promote the highest standards of governance, ethics, compliance within the Board and the wider organisation, ensuring the Charity complies with regulations set by the Charity Commission.
- Appraise Trustees performance annually.

Ambassadorial

- Act as an effective ambassador for the charity and its cause, maintaining close and productive relationships, along with the Chief Executive, with key external stakeholders.
- Champion the charity, supporting and helping to identify and develop new opportunities for increasing fundraising, influence and impact.

Person Specification



Knowledge and Experience

- Significant experience as a non-executive, ideally as a Vice Chair or Chair.
- A compelling personal track record of leadership at strategic leadership level within organisations that have been through a successful journey of growth and change in the private, public or voluntary sector.
- Excellent understanding of good governance and the discipline of Board leadership and management.
- Strong experience representing organisations externally from public platforms and through effective stakeholder management.
- An understanding of UK charity governance.

Skills and Abilities

- High intellectual capacity and credibility; a clear and independent thinker.
- Highly effective relationship and alliance building abilities.
- Sound judgement with high capacity for self-reflection.
- Capacity to support both Board and Executive development.

Personal Style and Attributes

- Dynamic leadership style that guides and inspires the Board and Executive to fulfil their respective responsibilities.
- A strong personal commitment to improving equality and diversity.
- An effective networker who secures confidence immediately, has a diplomatic style that will galvanise support for A+LUK's work.
- Collaborative approach with excellent interpersonal skills.
- A strong personal commitment to A+LUK's vision and mission.
- Embodies and models our values:
 - We have courage
 - We always push for better
 - We empower our people to be their best
 - We work as one
 - We listen and understand.

Terms of Appointment



This is an unremunerated role which requires a time commitment of around two days per month inclusive of quarterly board meetings. All reasonable expenses incurred in the role will be reimbursed. The appointment is offered on an initial four year term, renewable to a maximum of eight continuous years.

A+LUK is for everyone, and we want our Board to reflect the diversity of the community we serve. We are particularly keen to attract candidates whose lives may have been affected by asthma and other lung diseases.



How to apply



If you believe you can offer the experience, skills and qualities we are seeking we very much hope you will consider applying for this role.

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

- your CV or equivalent biographical information.
- a covering letter that sets out your motivation for applying for this appointment, and why you think your skills and experience make you suitable.

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.

Closing date is Monday 16th May 2022

If selected, you will be invited to meet (via remote means) with our advising consultants during w/c 30th May 2022.

Agreement of the final shortlist is likely to take place in w/c 6th June 2022 with meetings at A+LUK w/c 13th and 20th June 2022.

