

Yorkshire Cancer
Research



**Candidate Pack for a
Trustee**

Welcome

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in joining our Board of Trustees.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is the largest independent regional cancer charity in England. We have a clear mission to take action today by preventing cancer, diagnosing it earlier and treating it more effectively. Yorkshire as a region has one of the-worst cancer outcomes in England. Every 17 minutes, someone in Yorkshire is told they have cancer, and the charity works to ensure these people have access to world-leading treatments and have the best possible chance of survival.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is well-funded with income from legacies, investments and fundraising, and has healthy reserves. The charity commenced, several years ago, a significant expansion and investment in research backed services, its retail network and fundraising capability. The headquarter relocated in late 2023 to bespoke premises which includes offices, charity shop, café, donation centre and facilities for delivering cancer rehabilitation programmes, directly connecting the charity with supporters, volunteers and beneficiaries.

We intend to continue to grow and diversify our income and the Charity has an ambitious and stretch fundraising objective to invest over £200m in the next ten years to tackle the region's biggest cancer issues. The charity is now looking for a Trustee with significant fundraising expertise to help shape its future strategic direction.

You may have experience as a Director of Fundraising, a fundraising consultant who is actively engaged across the sector, or a Chief Executive whose roots are in fundraising. Whoever you are, you will be someone with the highest level of personal integrity and maturity of judgement, with strong analytical skills and the ability to work collaboratively within a diverse Board to provide strong strategic leadership and governance.

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 are a high performing group of people with a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise. If you bring the skills and experience, we are looking for and are motivated by our commitment to people in Yorkshire living longer healthier lives, free of cancer, I hope you will read on to find out more.

Sir Alan Langlands
Chair

About us

Yorkshire Cancer Research exists so that more people in our region can live longer healthier lives, free of cancer. We are the largest regional independent cancer charity in England. 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.

In addition to our fundraising efforts, each year we gain significant income from a revenue sharing stream from a class of drugs known as PARP inhibitors, discovered as a result of Charity research funding over 20 years ago.

More detail on the Charity's financial position is given in the latest Annual Report & Financial Statements to be found [here](#).

Details of our current Board members can be found [here](#).

Our vision

Our vision is that people in Yorkshire live longer healthier lives, free of cancer.

Our values and behaviours



Here for Yorkshire

The needs of people in Yorkshire come first

Yorkshire Cancer Research exists to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer in Yorkshire. The needs and interests of people in Yorkshire are at the forefront of what we do, how we think and how we act.

People are the heart of everything we do

When we develop new plans, projects and activities, we actively seek patient, supporter and/or customer input to inform our approach and decision-making.

United by the cause

United by the need to Give Yorkshire More Life to Live

We are transparent and open in what we do and what we say, uniting to support one another in achieving our shared goals.

We collaborate with each other and other organisations

We work to build relationships based on trust and collaboration. We seek to understand the needs and objectives of others to establish the common ground and agree how we can work together to benefit people in Yorkshire.

Think Big and Bold

We deliver world-leading research and services

We evaluate worldwide research to harness it in Yorkshire and drive the greatest advances and impact in cancer research and services.

We promote a culture of continual improvement and innovation.

We dare to think differently to Give Yorkshire More Life to Live

We are ambitious and not afraid to try something new or difficult when it comes to achieving our goals.

Nor are we afraid to make difficult decisions when they are in the best interests of those we exist to serve; the people of Yorkshire.





Making it Happen

We create and build solutions

We are focused on understanding the impact of our work and the difference it is making. We ensure we are always pushing forward the achievement of our charity's vision.

We approach our work with positivity, energy and drive

We see every challenge as an opportunity to provide a solution.

When it comes to preventing, diagnosis and treating cancer, we deliver pioneering solutions *To Give Yorkshire More Life To Live*.

We pursue our goals with enthusiasm and commitment; always asking 'Can I, and can we, do more?'.

Our Research

Together, we are finding new and better ways to save more lives.

We fund researchers and cancer experts who pioneer early diagnosis and discover new and better treatments for people with cancer. These life-giving medical breakthroughs are helping more people survive cancer - here in Yorkshire, and beyond. Thanks to the income from our royalties, investments and through the generosity of our supporters, Yorkshire Cancer Research is the biggest funder of cancer-related clinical trials for people in Yorkshire, giving greater access to innovative new cancer treatments.

Prevent cancer

Genetic screening can identify if someone is at higher risk of developing cancer, giving them the opportunity to act before cancer develops. Some cancer screening – such as cervical cancer screening – can detect pre-cancerous cells. Through research and services like these, we can prevent more people developing cancer.

Diagnose cancer sooner

Late diagnosis of cancer is a particular problem in Yorkshire, where 4 in 10 cancers are diagnosed at a late stage - well above the national average. We fund vital new screening programmes and research trials to help detect cancer at the earliest possible opportunity when it's easier to treat.

Treat cancer more effectively

Most people undergoing treatment for cancer will experience surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy - sometimes all of these. We fund world-leading researchers and medical experts to improve these treatments, making them more effective at treating the cancer while minimising the impact on the rest of the body.

Information on the impact of the work the Charity funds can be found [here](#).



Job description

Role purpose:

The overall role of a Trustee is to ensure that the Charity develops and progresses in line with its stated aims and objectives, whilst ensuring proper and appropriate governance. Trustees have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, a charity's management and administration.

Key accountabilities:

Collectively trustees will:

- Oversee the strategic direction, financial management and governance of the organisation.
- Ensure that the organisation works within its charitable objectives and is compliant with charity and company law within the jurisdictions within which it is registered and operates.
- Further the charitable objectives of the organisation.
- Ensure the charity is sustainable in the long term.
- Attend and actively contribute to Board meetings and serve on at least one Board Committee.

Principal duties and responsibilities of a trustee:

- Take part in formulating and regularly reviewing the strategic aims of the organisation.
- Ensure good and effective governance.
- Make decisions collectively and take joint responsibility for them, maintaining confidentiality on all Charity activities.
- Act in the best interests of the charity as a whole, ensuring that the organisation's policy, practices, performance and operations are in keeping with its aims and that beneficiaries are at the heart of everything the Charity does.
- Undertake and commit to attending training/development activities relevant to the Board of Trustees; and to develop a working knowledge of the charity.
- Promote the organisation, its mission, aims and values and act as an ambassador for the Charity.
- Support the Chief Executive and the Directorate in the delivery of operational plans through the Fundraising and Retail Committee of the Board.
- Support the appointment and monitoring the performance of the senior executives.
- In this particular round of recruitment, we are seeking a trustee who will help to identify and develop new opportunities for increasing and diversifying our fundraised income streams and who will contribute towards developing our fundraising strategy, influence and impact.

Person specification

Skills and experience required for this role

- Clear alignment with our mission and a personal commitment to our ambition/ethos.
- Experienced senior leader with a demonstrable track record of income generation, in particular through charitable fundraising.
- Experience of leadership within organisations of varying scale, complexity and diversity which have undergone significant change.
- High strategic capacity – able to set strategy, policy, business plans and assess competing objectives.
- An effective networker and relationship builder with excellent communication and influencing skills – a demonstrable ability to act as an ambassador for the Charity.
- Excellent understanding of good governance and ideally some experience as a trustee or non-executive director.
- The ability to work pro-actively and constructively with fellow trustees and key colleagues in a way that models positive behaviours and constructive challenge.
- The time and flexibility to take on this role and ideally, be based in Yorkshire.
- A strong personal commitment to improving equality and diversity.
- An inclusive style and personal approach that fits with the values and culture of the Charity.

Terms of appointment

The Board of Trustees comprises the Chair, Sir Alan Langlands, Deputy Chair, Liz Richards, and 11 Trustees.

We believe a diverse Board of Trustees is central to us achieving our strategic goal of saving more lives in 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.

Time commitment

The Board meets four times a year and holds an annual Strategy/ Board Development Away Day. The Board works through a Committee structure, with six committees each taking a detailed role in a significant area of the Charity's operations.

Location of meetings

The Charity is headquartered in Harrogate.

Board meetings are held in person in Harrogate or online on Teams.

Let's go active
together

Active
Together.

How to apply

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 erin.fuller@starfishsearch.com and we will be happy to arrange a call. To make an application, please go to <https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/ycr-trustee/> 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 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: Friday 21st November 2025

Further dates to be confirmed