

OUR MISSION

Caring for all affected by this rare, complex and lifelong condition; promoting research into the cause, effects, treatment and management of Behçet's

We provide information and support, help people connect with others who understand, and promote research into Behçet's, with the ultimate aim of finding a cure.

ABOUT THE ROLE

We are looking for new Trustees to join our Board and help shape the future of Behçet's UK.

Trustees have overall responsibility for the governance and strategic direction of the charity. As a small charity with two part-time staff, our Trustees can also play an active role in helping the charity develop and deliver its work.

We welcome applications from people with a wide range of skills, experiences and backgrounds. You do not need previous experience as a Trustee or Board member. Training and ongoing support will be provided.

Depending on your skills, interests and availability, you may also have opportunities to contribute to projects, events, communications, fundraising or other areas of the charity's work.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

As a Trustee, you will work collectively with the Board to:

- help set the charity's strategic direction and priorities
- make decisions about how the charity's resources are used to achieve its charitable objectives
- oversee the charity's financial management and sustainability
- ensure the charity complies with its governing document, charity law and other relevant legislation
- monitor the charity's performance and progress against its objectives
- safeguard the charity's reputation, values and charitable purpose
- provide constructive challenge and support to fellow Trustees, staff and volunteers
- bring your own perspective, experience and ideas to Board discussions
- contribute to the charity's wider work where appropriate and where this fits with your skills and availability.

Trustees act collectively as a Board and are responsible for making decisions in the best interests of Behçet's UK.

WHAT YOU COULD BRING

We are particularly interested in people who can bring skills, experience or perspectives in areas such as:

- lived experience of Behçet's or another rare condition
- finance, budgeting or financial planning
- communications, marketing, social media or campaigning
- project management

- fundraising or income generation
- digital or technology skills
- equality, diversity and inclusion
- charity, health or social care experience
- research or public policy
- community engagement or volunteering

This is not an exhaustive list, and you do not need to have experience in all, or even most, of these areas.

We are interested in what you can bring to the Board, including skills and experience gained through work, volunteering, education or your personal life.

We are looking for people who are curious, collaborative and willing to listen, ask questions and challenge constructively. You should be able to contribute to discussions, work effectively with others and exercise independent judgement.

EXPERIENCE, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Knowledge or lived experience of Behçet's is welcome, but it is not essential.

We want our Board to reflect the diverse community we support and warmly welcome applications from anyone interested in becoming a Trustee. We are particularly keen to hear from people aged 18 to 40 and individuals from ethnically diverse backgrounds, as these groups are currently underrepresented on our Board. We would value the different perspectives, experiences and skills you could bring to our leadership team.

In accordance with our charity's constitution, appointments take into account the diversity of the Board, representation of people affected by Behçet's and the skills and experience needed to run the organisation effectively. We therefore consider each appointment alongside our current strategic priorities and the areas where the Board has skills gaps.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

Being a Trustee is a voluntary role, but it can also be a valuable opportunity to develop your skills, experience and confidence at Board level.

You don't need to know everything from day one. New Trustees will receive appropriate training and support, and will have the opportunity to learn from the Chair, other Trustees and staff as they settle into the role.

You will have the opportunity to:

- gain practical experience of charity governance and Board-level decision-making
- develop your strategic leadership skills
- learn more about charity finance, regulation and governance
- work alongside experienced Trustees, staff and volunteers
- contribute to the future of a national charity supporting people affected by a rare and complex condition
- bring your own skills and perspective to something that matters to you.

TIME COMMITMENT

The expected commitment includes:

- Five Board meetings a year: Four are held online on weekday evenings (1.5 to 2 hours). One is a daytime, in-person meeting in October (up to 3 hours), with a remote option available if you cannot travel.
- Annual Conference & AGM: Normally held on the third Saturday of October and the Honorary Treasurer presents the annual accounts. This is a key opportunity to meet the wider Behçet's community, staff, and volunteers.
- Friends and Family Day: An optional but highly encouraged event to connect with our members and families.
- Meeting preparation: Setting aside time to read or prepare papers and contribute to active discussions.
- Mandatory training: Completing essential courses, such as safeguarding.
- Optional opportunities: Joining specific projects, working groups, or sub-committees depending entirely on your interests and availability.

We understand that Trustees have work, studies, family and other commitments. We aim to plan meetings and activities as far in advance as possible and to make the role accessible and flexible.

TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees have legal responsibility for the overall governance and strategic direction of Behçet's UK. They must act in the charity's best interests, comply with their legal duties and the charity's governing document, and exercise independent judgement.

Trustees are expected to:

- act collectively as a Board
- maintain appropriate oversight of the charity's finances and resources
- ensure that the charity operates for public benefit and in accordance with its charitable purposes
- ensure appropriate policies, procedures and controls are in place
- safeguard the charity's reputation and values
- maintain confidentiality and declare and manage conflicts of interest
- comply with the Trustee Code of Conduct
- uphold the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

EXPENSES

Trustees may claim reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred while carrying out their role, in accordance with the charity's expenses policy.