



The Growing Space helps people to improve their mental health through gardening, horticulture and getting into nature. We have a beautiful plot in the heart of Wincanton, but operate across various sites in South Somerset. With several recent successful grant applications and a clear plan for growth, we are now looking for a new Chair and Trustees to join our Board as we look to the future and embark on a new phase of expansion and development.

Time Commitment: approximately 1-2 days per month (6 board meetings, 2 development days and ad-hoc meetings as required per year)

The role of our Trustees is to ensure that the Growing Space is fulfilling its mission to help people lead healthy, happy lives, supporting our project staff as much as holding them to account. The Growing Space is proud to have an excellent reputation for the quality of our work, which is based on clear values and a special way of doing things. Our Trustees are stewards of our mission, reputation, quality, values and operating model.

Core Responsibilities

- Provide leadership, insights, support, and accountability opportunities to our project staff in fulfilling our mission.
- Ensure that all statutory responsibilities, such as timely submission of annual accounts, are fulfilled.
- Ensure that the Growing Space is effectively pursuing its charitable objectives appropriate to our resources to remain viable, both in-year and over a three-to-five-year period.
- Provide mentoring and career development advice to our project staff and offer professional advice on specific issues as necessary.
- Ensure that the Growing Space remains financially and culturally healthy, and that we are compliant with charity law, company law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations, protecting and enhancing our reputation through good governance and personal conduct alike.
- Contribute to important Board discussions and wider Board dynamic, appreciating that the Growing Space is a multidisciplinary organisation full of people with different experiences and insights.

- Assist the Board and project staff in horizon scanning, anticipating and fielding risks as much as opportunities, bringing the outside world in and always relating back to our purpose – to serve the people in our neighbourhood.

Person Specification

You should have significant experience of helping people through horticulture, community development or business. This may have been gained in an entrepreneurial, social enterprise, commercial, corporate, philanthropic or public sector environment. Your understanding of how to make things change for the better should be broad and innovative. We will be looking to you to push the boundaries of how we turn our vision into reality.

Level of seniority is less important than ethos, energy and commitment to changing lives, but it is likely that you will have worked at a senior level in one context or another.

Aside from professional competencies, we are looking for values-driven people with high levels of emotional intelligence, who can lend not only their individual skills but help encourage those around them. Prior experience of sitting on a charity Board is not essential and we encourage first-timers as much as experienced Trustees, though it will be essential to demonstrate your understanding of the role of a charity Board Member and where governance responsibilities lie.

Most importantly, we are looking for Trustees who share and want to be actively engaged in our mission to help everyone lead a healthy, happy life through growing things.

You may well be someone who already knows and values the work of the Growing Space. If you are not already familiar with our work, we offer an orientation day in which you will see our ethos in action.

For further information, please contact Michael Bainbridge, Trustee, on 07966 987653. If you would like to apply please send a letter describing why you would be a good Chair or Trustee to michaelfbainbridge@hotmail.co.uk