Board of Trustees
Candidate brief 2021
Let’s take it on together

Thank you for your interest in Pancreatic Cancer UK

Thank you so much for your interest in joining our Board of Trustees. Please find enclosed further information about the Charity, the disease and the trustee roles we wish to fill this year.

I joined the Board of Trustees in 2015 and became Chair in 2017, and despite these being the most challenging of times I believe this is also an exciting time to join the organisation. We are nearing the end of our most recent five-year strategy and are currently preparing an interim two-year plan whilst we ride the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the charity. Nonetheless our charity is in a strong position as we look to develop an ambitious, sector-leading strategy for the coming years.

The toughest cancer challenge...

We’re facing a pancreatic cancer emergency – too little has improved and too many people are dying. It’s unacceptable that more than half of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer die within 3 months. Pancreatic cancer is so far behind other cancers. Survival rates have improved enormously for most cancers. But sadly, for pancreatic cancer, this is not the case.

Symptoms are often vague and not recognised. People are experiencing unnecessary delays to get diagnosed and waiting too long to be referred for treatment. Alongside this, effective new treatments are not being developed. As a result, 9 out of 10 people with pancreatic cancer don’t get the treatment they need to give them the best chance to survive.

As a leading voice of the pancreatic cancer community, we work with governments, clinicians, researchers and those affected by the disease across the UK to find ways to improve and speed up diagnosis and develop faster and better treatment for pancreatic cancer – and call for more investment in research. Now more so than ever – as we navigate a global pandemic – pancreatic cancer won’t wait, and we won’t stop campaigning for ways to transform the future for those affected by the disease.
Around 10,000 people a year are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, but it has the lowest survival with around 9,000 dying every year. In Scotland the five-year survival rate of 5.6% is one of the worst rates in the world and by 2026 more people will die from pancreatic cancer than breast cancer.

Research into pancreatic cancer has been underfunded for decades – it only receives 2% of the UK cancer research budget. This is three times less than research spend on breast cancer. Our research strategy is focused on investing in the best and the brightest researchers, tackling the key priority areas for people with pancreatic cancer and the research community. By investing in the next generation of researchers, earlier diagnosis and better treatments and care, we’re determined to transform the future for people with pancreatic cancer.

We need change…

Pancreatic Cancer UK is determined to change the awful statistics associated with the disease.

By providing easily accessible expert support and information on treatments, we reassure those affected by pancreatic cancer that they are not alone. Despite our work, 24 people in the UK still die from this devastating disease every day, so we need to do more. We need change, fast, and we can’t do this alone. We are now seeking new trustees to join us to help take on pancreatic cancer.

The Board of Trustees taking on the challenge…

We are at an exciting point as a charity, with big challenges, big ambitions, and the passion and energy to make big change happen. We need trustees to help us realise our potential and we want Board membership to reflect the diverse society of the UK and its differing healthcare systems.

Our Board currently consists of nine members who possess a wide range of skills and experience and all of whom have a connection to pancreatic cancer either through having lost someone close to them or as a survivor. We have several trustees nearing the end of their terms of office and we are seeking to recruit up to three trustees this year.

Under normal circumstances we meet quarterly but of course this past year has been anything but normal. Whilst it is the CEO who leads the
charity with her senior staff, this year Trustees have worked particularly closely to great effect with the senior team with our skills and contacts being drawn upon in many positive ways to the benefit of the charity. An already strong team ethos has been built upon and further developed.

We are an inclusive organisation committed to developing a diverse workforce and are looking for people who can demonstrate dedication to our cause and values. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all types and backgrounds. You may already have experience at Board level, but this is not essential. We offer a range of support including mentoring and training. To help us achieve our ambitions we are very keen to talk to those who have knowledge/experience of digital developments in organisations, health care/cancer sector, marketing and communications and we would like to continue the tradition of having pancreatic cancer survivors on the Board if at all possible.

You will also share our passion and determination to transform the future for everyone affected by pancreatic cancer.

We need to stop pancreatic cancer taking too many lives, too soon.
We hope you will join us.

With best wishes,

Lynne Walker, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Our story so far

Pancreatic Cancer UK’s vision is to ensure that everyone with pancreatic cancer survives to live long and well. The charity was founded in 2006, at a time when five-year pancreatic cancer survival rates had remained at below 3% for nearly 40 years. UK investment in research was less than 1% of the total cancer research spend and patients were reporting the worst NHS experience of almost any cancer patient group. For the past 13 years, we have worked to be there for everyone involved in the fight against pancreatic cancer. We have supported thousands of people affected by this devastating disease, providing expert information and support, investment in research, and campaigning for greater recognition of pancreatic cancer.

Our achievements at a glance

Pancreatic Cancer UK champions hope, in a disease that has been side-lined, ignored and underfunded for too long. Over the past five years, we have grown in our reach and recognition, developed new services and pioneered new thinking in pancreatic cancer.

- Through our efforts, there has been a significant increase in annual UK research spend. Over the past ten years we have invested almost £7m in the most innovative research which has unlocked a further £30m in funding from other sources.

- We have spear-headed early diagnosis research by bringing together and funding a team of 38 world-leading researchers. This is a first for pancreatic cancer and we are confident that through this collaboration, we can produce bolder, faster and more imaginative results. This exceptional team has delivered some promising findings and we know that they can deliver the type of knockout blow we need to make earlier diagnosis a reality.

- Our investment in research to improve treatment and care has led to some life-changing results. For example, surgeon Keith Roberts has undertaken research resulting in patients getting surgery faster; a reduction in waiting times from two months to two weeks has saved lives.

- We successfully campaigned for a commitment from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to produce clinical guidelines on pancreatic
cancer. We have since taken a lead role in their development; a significant step forward in improving standards and consistency of care.

Looking forward, we must continue to drive for change, and we are more ambitious than ever before.

**It's time to take on pancreatic cancer together**

Our current strategy – *Taking it on together* – takes our fight against pancreatic cancer to the next level. Over the next five years, we have committed to:

- **Investing £10m in cutting-edge research into pancreatic cancer.** We want to further grow our investment, working with the best and brightest scientists to be at the forefront of the most innovative research.

- **Significantly growing our unique specialist support and information services.** We must reach and support those affected by pancreatic cancer. Whilst we work hard to promote our services, still too many people are not aware of the direct support we offer, or are not able to access it.

- **Driving up NHS standards, improving care and campaigning for change in health policy.** We are working with patients, their families, professionals and other cancer charities to ensure that those affected by pancreatic cancer get the best treatment and care – nothing less than they deserve.

To deliver on our ambitious plans we must continue to have the leadership and engagement of a highly motivated, engaged and committed Board of Trustees.

**Time commitment**

The Board meets four times a year in addition to which there is an annual Away Day which includes strategic planning and self-assessment. Trustees are encouraged to undertake at least one research visit every six months and/or another activity on behalf of the Board, such as attendance at, or involvement in, a fundraising event. The initial period of office is four years.

Due to the pandemic our meetings are currently held virtually but we hope to resume in-person meetings by mid 2021 in central London at our offices. However, to ensure maximum trustee participation in meetings we can arrange virtual meetings via Zoom, or similar.
However, all trustees are expected to attend the Trustee Board meeting and strategic planning away day in London (or online) on October 7th 2021.

Trustees are not remunerated although reasonable expenses are paid.

Support from Pancreatic Cancer UK

The new trustees will have:

- **a personal point of contact** – each new trustee will have a trustee mentor from within the Board to guide and support them through their first year.
- **the full support of the senior management team** - including the Chief Executive, who attends all Trustee Board meetings and Away Days.
- **access to an online Trustee Information Resource** – the TIR is a repository for meeting papers, reports, newsletters and information relating to governance and the role of trustees.
- **a full induction programme** - which will give real insight into the vital work that Pancreatic Cancer UK delivers.
- **appropriate training where identified**

The role of trustees - key responsibilities in summary

The key role of the Pancreatic Cancer UK Board of Trustees is the governance of the organisation ensuring that the charity acts in accordance with its constitution and that its activities are in furtherance of its objects. This requires a longer term and less hands-on approach. The management of the charity is undertaken by the CEO and senior staff and is best described as the day to day activity involved in implementing the higher-level, longer-term decisions of the Board.

1. The Board of Trustees is responsible for:
   - setting Pancreatic Cancer UK’s strategic objectives, the strategy to achieve them and Pancreatic Cancer UK’s major policies.
   - monitoring the performance of Pancreatic Cancer UK.
   - identifying and managing the major risks facing Pancreatic Cancer UK
   - trustees are responsible for ensuring that the CEO exercises effective leadership and management of the Executive Staff and total organization.
2. The Board of Trustees is accountable to Pancreatic Cancer UK’s stakeholders and this includes giving a written account of their stewardship of Pancreatic Cancer UK’s resources in the Trustees’ Annual Report and Accounts.

3. All trustees are expected to represent the charity both proactively within their own networks but also at charity events, meetings, etc.

All trustees are expected to operate within the charity’s policies, including the conflict of interest policy and are expected to sign a copy of our Code of Conduct for Trustees.

How to apply

If you wish to pursue your application, please send in your CV along with a statement about why you wish to join us and what you would bring to the Board to our HR team at HR@pancreaticcancer.org.uk. If preferred, candidates may request via the above email, an informal conversation with existing Trustees and Directors, which can take place via telephone or video call.

The closing date is 11th February 2021 at 9am. Interviews will be held in the week beginning on the 1st March 2021 (interview date to be confirmed) and following a period of induction the successful candidates will take up their roles at the Board meeting on 22nd June 2021.

For further information about the charity, please refer to our latest Annual Report and Accounts.

Please note: The charity is registered both as a charity and a limited company. Every trustee is also a director of the company and has legal responsibilities and potential liabilities in each capacity. Full details of these are not included in this role description but can be obtained from the Chair of the Board.

We undertake enhanced criminal record checks on trustees because the charity delivers direct services to vulnerable adults but do not do this until a role of trustee has been confirmed. We abide by the DBS Code of Practice, Disclosure Scotland Code of Practice and Access NI Code of Practice.