

The Powell Family Foundation

Trustee Role Description – June 2025

Role: Trustee

Reports to: Chairman

Duration: Initial term of three years

Time Commitment: 8 to 10 hours per month

Location: Board meetings in London or online

Salary: not remunerated, all reasonable expenses reimbursed

Introduction

The Powell Family Foundation (TPFF) is a grant making Foundation established to support children and young people with a vision impairment.

We are seeking an additional Trustee to help us through an exciting time of growth and build on our highly successful first two years.

What will you be doing?

Our mission is to support young people and adults aged 25 and under who are vision impaired, to improve their emotional and physical well-being, increase their knowledge and skills, and support their independence through the provision of grants to individuals and charitable organisations.

TPFF is an independent Foundation, funded by investments and run by Trustees and staff who are passionate about making a difference to the lives of children and young people with a vision impairment.

This is an exciting time for the Foundation, as we build on a highly successful first two years. During 2025 we will be reviewing our activities and considering how we use our investment income of approximately £1m per annum to achieve the greatest impact.

As a member of the Board you will play a key role in discussing and agreeing the award of grants as well as the governance of the Foundation.

We are looking for an additional Trustee to strengthen our dynamic and committed Board. You will need a real passion for our work and a high degree of personal integrity. You will play a key role in developing the Foundation as we evolve and grow.

What are we looking for?

Ideally, we are looking for someone with lived experience of vision impairment who has a good understanding of the challenges faced by young people.

In general we are looking for:

- Commitment to the Foundation and a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.
- Willingness to be available to the Executive Director, Trustees, and other employees for advice and enquiries on an ad hoc basis.
- Independent judgement and strategic vision.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship. Please note, training will be given.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.

Please note: we are happy to accept applications from first time Trustees.

Our Trustees help ensure we operate effectively so that The Powell Family Foundation delivers on its vision, mission and values and fulfils its legal responsibilities and requirements outlined by the Charity Commission. We're looking for passionate individuals who want to help us make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people who are vision impaired.

We respect and value difference and seek to create an inclusive workplace which promotes and values equality, diversity and inclusion. We, therefore, welcome applications from all backgrounds especially from people with lived experience of vision impairment.

Values

TPFF Trustees and staff aim to demonstrate our values in all that we do. We will be:

- Clear – so everyone knows what we stand for, what we aim to achieve, our processes and decisions. Our policies and procedures will be clear and unambiguous.
- Honest – with no hidden agenda, we will explain our plans, activities and decisions, and not hide from the truth or difficult conversations.
- Accountable – Trustees and Staff are accountable for their actions and will ensure their behaviours support our purpose and do not adversely impact the charity.
- Collaborative – we will work with the people we serve (children, young people, parents, guardians, charities) to help us improve our grant making process and identify areas of need. We will work with partner organisations where we can add value and impact.
- Fair and Consistent – we will be diligent in our assessment of grant applications and consider each in a fair and consistent manner
- Supportive – we will talk to people who are in receipt of a TPFF grant to see if there is any additional help or support we can recommend. We will ensure our colleagues work in a supportive environment where they can develop and contribute fully.

Commitments

Half day per month to attend Board meetings and half day to read Board papers.

Board meetings are held monthly in our central London office. Trustees may join online although attendance in person is preferred.

All reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Trustees will serve an initial three year term with the option to extend.

What difference will you make?

It is estimated there are in excess of 40,000 children and young people who are vision impaired aged 25 and under in the UK. Although this is a relatively small group there is often a high level of need.

During 2024, our second year of operations, we have awarded over 200 grants totalling over £900,000.

The Trustees' policy on grant giving is discretionary and aims to support individuals who are unable to otherwise afford the cost of early years development, access to learning, assistive technology, knowledge and skills development or activities to promote well-being and independence. The charity accepts applications for grants from both individuals and other charitable organisations with similar objectives.

Becoming a Trustee of The Powell Family Foundation is enjoyable and rewarding. It comes with the opportunity to directly support children and young people who are vision impaired to help fulfil their potential.

Please visit our website for more information: [The Powell Family Foundation - Blind/Vision-Impaired Child Grants \(tpff.org.uk\)](https://tpff.org.uk)

Guidance

For an informal discussion or to apply, please contact Colin Whitbourn (Executive Director) email colin.whitbourn@tpff.org.uk

There is no deadline for applications, although we expect to close in September and invite potential Trustees to meet our Board later in the Autumn.

Please note that applicants must be able to show their eligibility to become a trustee as set out in The Charity Commission's The Essential Trustee guide. [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do)

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