

What about Businesses?

Businesses can help too, whether it's by helping us to reach skilled individuals like yourself or encouraging their staff to volunteer. More and more are running volunteering programmes or have specific Corporate Social Responsibility policies.

Getting involved with the local community is good for business.

"Business needs to be located in the heart of any community – supporting your employees to volunteer is the best way I see this actually happening"

Robert Beattie MBE, Community Investment Co-ordinator, IBM UK Ltd

Consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of companies' commitment to wider society. Voluntary work can generate positive media coverage and is good for a businesses image. It has been proven to improve staff recruitment, motivation and retention. In a survey of 200 top businesses 94% found that volunteering adds to the skills of their workforce.

The Next Steps

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can donate your skills, Volunteer Centre South Bedfordshire will be happy to advise you or talk you through trustee opportunities that may interest you.

Our offices are open to the public between 9.30am and 3.00pm Monday to Friday and at other times by appointment. Potential volunteers can access Volunteer Centre services via the internet, through telephone enquiries and informal, confidential, face-to-face interviews. We can also arrange to meet you at a venue closer to where you live or work.

Contact Us

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Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire
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volunteering made easy

Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire

Donate Your Skills

Helping you AND your community



Volunteer Centre
South Bedfordshire

Your Skills are in NEED!

When you go to work, you use skills that are in high demand. Your local charities, voluntary organisations and community groups don't just need money to carry out their work. They also want people from all walks of life to donate their business and life skills by volunteering to be a trustee.

You have the skills they need.

From the Trustee's Mouth...

Karin became a Trustee for Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire in 2002, an organisation which empowers local community action.

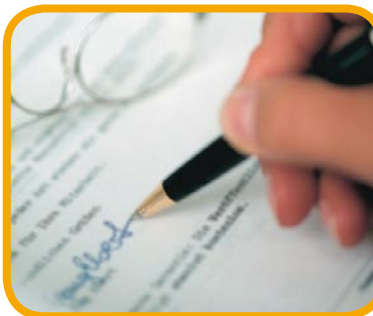


With a background in marketing and economics, Karin joined the charity following the birth of her son, not only to help the community but also as a route to help her back into the workplace.

Now working in London, Karin offers the charity invaluable strategic and economic advice as a trustee. She commented *"It's a two way thing though. I help the charity but I also take back knowledge that helps me in my paid role. I work on my company's sustainability policies, and my trustee role helps educate me on related matters. Working with communities is an increasingly important issue for businesses as well."*

What is a Trustee?

Trustees make organisations run. They ensure an organisation has a clear strategy, remains true to its vision, is well managed and that it meets its financial and legal obligations. Collectively, trustees are known as the board or committee, with roles such as Treasurer, Chairperson and Secretary.



Who Makes a Good Trustee?

People from many walks of life become trustees. Some have specialist business or life experience, others have passion for a cause. There are common qualities that help make good trustees: being over 18 years of age, with good interpersonal skills and at least two to five hours per month to donate.

Examples of the areas where organisations need your time are: Marketing and PR, Human Resources, Law, Finance, Administration and Premises. Good local knowledge can also be key. Some organisations need specific skills for formal roles, but in all cases, new trustees should receive a thorough induction.

What are the Benefits?

Becoming a trustee enables you to use your professional or life skills for local causes and can be great for your personal development allowing you to:

- meet new people and network
- help a cause you care about
- put your business experience to greater use
- make a real difference by donating just a few hours a month
- enhance career prospects
- learn new skills
- have an involvement with your local community.

Why You?

Why not you? Many people think they do not have the right skills and experience to be a trustee, but with a bit of free time and a desire to help the community, this could be a great opportunity for you and a local organisation in need.

Trustees play a vital role in the success of charities and community organisations of every size. Without them they can not function. Whatever skills you have to offer, why not consider donating them!