

Cumbria Yoga Foundation

Chair of Trustees Role Description

About Cumbria Yoga Foundation

Cumbria Yoga Foundation is a charity working to improve physical and emotional wellbeing through accessible, inclusive and community-based yoga. We believe yoga should be available to everyone, regardless of age, background, income, health or circumstance.

We support projects, partnerships and teaching that bring yoga into communities across Cumbria - particularly where people may face barriers to accessing wellbeing support.

Our values are Kindness, Quality, Connection and Respect, grounded in the principles of yoga.

As the organisation enters an exciting new phase of development, we are seeking a new Chair of Trustees to help guide and support the charity's future direction.

About the Role

The Chair plays a key leadership role in supporting the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees and helping Cumbria Yoga Foundation thrive as a values-led and well-governed organisation.

This is a hands-on Chair role within an exciting period of growth and development for the charity. While it includes strategic leadership and governance oversight, it also involves being actively engaged in supporting the organisation as it evolves, builds partnerships, and strengthens its impact across Cumbria.

The Chair works collaboratively with trustees and the leadership team to ensure the charity remains focused on its mission, sustainable in its development, and accountable in its governance.

This is an opportunity to help shape the future of an ambitious and growing community wellbeing charity at an important stage in its journey.

Key Responsibilities

The Chair's responsibilities include:

- Providing leadership to the Board of Trustees and ensuring effective governance
- Supporting the development of the charity's vision, strategy and long-term sustainability
- Chairing board meetings in a constructive, inclusive and effective way
- Encouraging participation and good decision-making across the Board
- Working closely with the Treasurer, trustees and leadership team
- Supporting accountability, transparency and compliance with charity governance requirements
- Helping maintain a positive, collaborative and values-led organisational culture
- Acting as an ambassador for the charity where appropriate
- Supporting the recruitment, induction and development of trustees
- Ensuring the Board regularly reviews its effectiveness, diversity and governance practices

The Chair will also provide appropriate support and constructive challenge to the organisation's leadership as the charity continues to grow and evolve.

Who We Are Looking For

We are looking for someone who shares our commitment to accessible community wellbeing and who can provide thoughtful, collaborative and values-led leadership.

You do not need to have previously chaired a charity board to apply. We welcome applications from people with transferable leadership experience from a range of professional, voluntary or community backgrounds.

We are particularly interested in people who bring experience in one or more of the following:

- Leadership or organisational development
- Charity governance
- Health, wellbeing or community development
- Partnership building
- Finance or strategic planning
- Fundraising and income development, ideally with experience of seeking funding through submission of bids to relevant grant-making organisations
- Public sector or NHS collaboration
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Building healthy organisational culture

Personal Qualities

We are looking for a Chair who is:

- Collaborative, supportive and emotionally intelligent
- Able to think strategically and see the bigger picture
- Confident facilitating discussion and building consensus
- Committed to equality, diversity and inclusion
- Comfortable supporting and constructively challenging where needed
- Enthusiastic about the mission and values of Cumbria Yoga Foundation
- Grounded, reflective and aligned with the principles of yoga
- Committed to the Nolan Principles of Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

Time Commitment

The Chair role currently requires a greater commitment than a typical charity trustee role.

In addition to chairing approximately four Board meetings each year and supporting effective governance, the Chair currently provides significant operational and organisational leadership between meetings.

While Cumbria Yoga Foundation now employs two part-time Project Coordinators who manage day-to-day project delivery and administration, the Chair remains actively involved and leading in areas including:

- Strategic planning and organisational development
- Fundraising and income generation

- Financial oversight and budgeting
- Governance and Charity Commission compliance
- Policy development and review
- Insurance and risk management
- Reporting to funders and stakeholders
- Support and line management of staff
- Partnership development and external representation

The time commitment varies throughout the year and may increase around funding deadlines, reporting periods and major organisational developments. Trustees should anticipate a commitment of several hours per week, with the Chair role currently requiring substantially more involvement than the wider trustee role.

We are actively seeking to strengthen and diversify the Board so that responsibilities can be shared more widely across trustees. The successful Chair will play an important role in helping build a sustainable governance structure that distributes leadership and organisational responsibilities more effectively over time.

Terms of Appointment

- The Chair must also serve as a trustee of the charity
- Trustees are appointed for an initial term of 2 years
- Trustees may be reappointed for up to 3 further terms, to a maximum of 8 years in total
- This is a voluntary role, but reasonable expenses can be reimbursed

What You Will Gain

This role offers an opportunity to:

- Help shape the future of a growing community wellbeing charity
- Support meaningful work improving access to yoga and wellbeing across Cumbria
- Contribute to an organisation grounded in compassion, inclusion and connection
- Work alongside a committed and values-led Board
- Develop experience in charity leadership and governance

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Cumbria Yoga Foundation is committed to building a diverse and inclusive Board that reflects the communities we serve.

We actively encourage applications from people who are currently underrepresented in charity governance, including people from ethnically diverse backgrounds, people living with disability, LGBTQ+ people, younger adults, people with lived experience of health inequalities, and people from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds.

How to Apply

To apply, please send:

- A copy of your CV or a short summary of your relevant experience

- A brief covering letter or expression of interest explaining why you are interested in becoming Chair of Trustees

We welcome informal conversations prior to application.

Please send applications and enquiries to:

jobs@cumbriayogafoundation.org

Closing date: Friday 31st July