Job Advert: Risk & Charity Governance Trustee

Unpaid Volunteer Post

Reporting to: Chair of Trustees

Third Age Project was established over two decades ago in January 1997 to serve the needs of 1 in 4 of the local population who are over 60 years of age. Over the last two decades it has become an important and popular facility within the borough of Camden and widely recognised as a successful multicultural community resource centre.

TAP's mission is to turn on its head the prevalent view that the Third Age is a burden on society and promote the view old people are valuable and important assets to be placed at the very heart of a community. In doing so we transform older people's lives, nurture creative aspiration, co-produce low cost services and build community, reversing the declining quality of life and well-being of the elderly.

Our purpose

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are:

- To benefit the public by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education, recreation and other leisure-time occupations in the interests of social welfare;
- To relieve older people in need aged 50 years and over in particular those living in the West Euston area;

The aims of our charity are to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of older people, particularly those in high need that experience barriers to accessing mainstream or other older people's services and facilities. These barriers include social and economic isolation, having English as a second language, cultural background, lack of formal education, a physical or mental disability and/or one or more long-term health conditions eg. heart disease.

All our charitable activities focus on our target groups, namely isolated older people who live in and around our area of benefit, who are on low income and who experience significant barriers in accessing mainstream and other services and facilities.

Our work

We provide a wide range of social, cultural, educational, healthy living and basic life skill courses, as well as befriending and support services, with the aims of improving quality of life, general health and wellbeing, and to equip older people with the confidence and knowledge to exercise greater choice and influence over decisions that affect their lives. These services are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Where we operate

Over 50% of Camden's Lower Super Output Areas are in the worst 20% across the country for older people's income deprivation and 20% are in the worst 5%. Poor health, immobility and living in a deprived area are additional issues often faced by the socially isolated. Indeed, there is an 11 year

difference in life expectancy between men living in the most deprived areas in Camden and those living in the most affluent areas – the 3rd highest disparity in London. Through consultation, participation and research we have learned that older people in Camden who are socially isolated are:

- often living alone (10,000 pensioner in Camden do so, including 6,400 on the first floor or above and around 800 on the 5th floor or higher);
- frequently single, divorced or never married, or have caring responsibilities;
- often on a low income;
- vulnerable to social isolation at transitions in their life such as bereavement and retirement;

Those from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities and/or who identify as LGBT are particularly vulnerable to being socially isolated. Camden's BME population (33.8%) is significantly higher than the English average (14.1%) and has poorer health outcomes than the wider community, and greater difficulty in accessing health, social care and other services. Given the high levels of mental health needs (3rd highest in London), over 3,000 older people are likely to be experiencing depression or anxiety.

The role

The role of Risk & Charity Governance Trustee is an opportunity to play an important role in the stewardship of our charity, helping the Board maintain high standards of governance, understand and manage strategic risk, and ensure that our decision-making remains effective, proportionate and aligned with our charitable purpose.

As a Trustee, you will share responsibility with the wider Board for the overall governance and strategic direction of Third Age Project Alongside these collective responsibilities, you will provide particular insight and challenge in relation to risk management, governance and good practice.

We are particularly interested in someone who can bring a constructive, strategic and big-picture perspective to charity governance and risk.

Key Responsibilities

We are looking for someone who sees effective risk management as more than compliance. The successful candidate will help us use risk insight to make strategic decisions, balancing appropriate control and assurance with the need for the charity to innovate, develop and deliver impact.

You will help the Board to:

- Maintain an effective governance framework, with clear accountability, appropriate policies and robust decision-making.
- Oversee the charity's strategic risk framework and ensure significant risks are identified, assessed, managed and appropriately escalated.
- Review the effectiveness of the charity's risk appetite, risk register, controls and assurance arrangements.
- Support the Board in understanding its legal, regulatory and fiduciary responsibilities.
- Promote compliance with relevant charity law, regulation, governing documents and recognised governance standards.
- Ensure governance arrangements remain proportionate to the charity's size, activities and evolving risk profile.
- Periodic reviews of governance policies.
- Contribute fully to wider Board discussions on strategy, performance, financial sustainability, safeguarding, organisational culture and impact.

The above list is indicative only and not exhaustive. The Risk & Charity Governance Trustee will be expected to perform all such additional duties as are reasonably commensurate with the role.

Experience and Skills required

Personal Qualities

- Demonstrate a strong and visible passion and commitment to the charity, its strategic objectives and cause
- Demonstrate tact and diplomacy, with the ability to listen and engage effectively
- Ability to foster and promote a collaborative team environment
- An ability to distinguish between the Board's governance responsibilities and the executive team's operational responsibilities.
- High standards of integrity, discretion and accountability.
- Ability to commit time to conduct the role well; 6 Board meetings take place per year with Committee meetings taking place between Board meetings, with a strategy day once per year and regular meetings with the Chair and General Manager.

Experience and Skills

- Experience in risk management, compliance, governance, management, or standard organisational governance oversight.
- Experience of charity governance would be preferable but not essential.