

Role description: Chair of Being Alongside

Term of office: Initial term of three years from May 2025

Remuneration: Unremunerated, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed

Time Commitment: approximately two days per month

We are looking for a new Chair (or Co-Chair) willing to lead our small charity's work to improve spiritual and pastoral care in the mental health field.

[Being Alongside](#) (formally known as The Association for Pastoral Care in Mental Health, or APCMH) was founded 40 years ago to help promote a holistic approach to supporting those experiencing mental health difficulties. The charity has a Christian foundation, operating non-denominationally and working with local groups (both faith based and non-faith based) which directly support individuals by 'being alongside' them through challenging times.

Our primary activity is to encourage and support local projects, specifically drop-in café style programmes and befriending schemes, including through the provision of seed corn funding for new projects.

Chair Responsibilities

The Chair leads the Trustees and directs the work of a part time Administrator (and CIO Secretary). The Chair is responsible for driving the work of the charity, with key responsibilities including:

Strategy and Governance

- With fellow Trustees, ensure that the charity operates efficiently and effectively to fulfil its objectives
- Shaping and guiding the charity's strategy, including fundraising and supporter engagement, to sustain the organisation's work
- Maintaining high standards of governance and risk management
- Maintaining compliance with relevant charity legislation

Financial

- Ensuring, with fellow Trustees, sound financial oversight including review and approval of the annual budget
- Working with the Treasurer and Administrator to ensure high standards of financial management

Lead Trustee Meetings

- Chairing quarterly Trustee meetings (and playing an appropriate role at other Being Alongside events) which are typically held in hybrid format with physical attendees in central/south London

- Overseeing all aspects of meeting management, including reviewing agendas and minutes and ensuring actions are appropriately monitored
- Encouraging discussion at Trustee meetings, summarising key points and ensuring decisions are made and implemented

Candidates for Chair should:

- Show commitment to Being Alongside's values, and while Christian faith is not a requirement, candidates should be able to demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the main UK denominations
- Be able to identify 'big picture' issues including around the charity's long-term sustainability and reputation
- Understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship and the additional responsibilities of chairing a Trustee board
- Possess a willingness to speak their own mind but also work effectively and diplomatically with other volunteer Trustees in pursuit of the charity's objectives
- Be able to gain respect and support from various constituencies and stakeholders, acting ambassadorially to represent the charity.

To apply:

For an informal chat about the charity and the role of Chair/Co-Chair, please contact our current Chair, Ben Wilson: chair@beingalongside.org.uk.

Expressions of interest in the form of a brief personal statement (no more than 500 words) should be sent to admin@beingalongside.org.uk by Friday 28th February. We will then be in touch with further details including opportunities to attend a trustee meeting as an observer.

Assuming you wish to proceed with your application after this meeting, we envisage making appointments in May 2025.

Date: January 2025