

## **Role description: Trustee 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 one day per month

We are looking for Trustees to help guide 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.

To serve as a Trustee of a charity is a stimulating and fulfilling role. The most effective Trustee Boards are ones which benefit from individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences and skill sets, and so Being Alongside is keen to attract applications from a wide pool – including those with lived experience of mental health difficulties.

### **The key formal duties of a Trustee are:**

- To ensure the organisation complies with governing document (in our case, Being Alongside's [CIO constitution](#))
- To ensure that the organisation pursues its charitable objectives, and applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives
- To contribute actively at Trustee meetings, to help provide clear strategic direction to the organisation
- To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation.

In addition to the above duties, each Trustee uses any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the trustees reach sound decisions. This involves scrutinising board papers, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

### **Candidates for Trustees should:**

- Be able to commit to attend quarterly Trustee meetings (ideally attending at least two such meetings per year in person, in London) and devote some additional time each month to dealing with correspondence/other activities related to the charity
- 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
- A willingness to speak their own mind but also work effectively and diplomatically with other volunteer Trustees in pursuit of the charity's objectives
- Understand the respective roles of the Chair, Trustees and (part time) Administrator.

**To apply:**

For an informal chat about the charity and the role of Trustee, please contact our current Chair, Ben Wilson: [chair@beingalongside.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:admin@beingalongside.org.uk) by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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*