

TRUSTEE ROLE

ABOUT US

- SUDC UK is a registered, national charity dedicated to raising awareness, funding research and supporting families affected by Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) – Charity Number 1175413.
- SUDC is the sudden and unexpected death of a child aged 1-18 years where the cause of death remains unexplained after a thorough investigation. 40 children are affected every year in England and Wales alone.
- There is limited awareness and research to understand SUDC and currently, no-one can predict or prevent these deaths. They continue to devastate families year on year.

SUDC UK'S MISSION IS TO:

- To encourage and fund crucial medical research to better understand these tragedies.
- To support families affected by SUDC.
- To improve awareness and understanding of Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood.

THE TRUSTEE ROLE

- Our trustees play a vital role in making sure that SUDC UK achieves its core purpose. They oversee the overall management and administration of the charity.
- Trustees also ensure that SUDC UK has a clear strategy and that our work and goals are in line with our vision.
- They also support and challenge the executive team to enable our organisation to grow and thrive to achieve our mission.
- Board members have a collective responsibility. This means that trustees always act as a group and not as individuals.

THE BASICS:

You don't need specific qualifications or skills for the role but you'll need to:

- Understand and accept responsibilities and liabilities as a trustee.
- Be non-judgmental and respect views, values and cultures that are different to your own.
- Have good listening, verbal and written communication skills.
- Be able to exercise good independent judgment.
- Have good numeracy skills to understand accounts (with the support of the treasurer).
- Be willing to learn about and follow aims, principles and policies, including confidentiality and data protection requirements.
- Be willing to undertake training in your role.

FORMAL DUTIES:

- Support and provide advice on SUDC UK's purpose, vision, goals and activities.
- Approve operational strategies and policies, monitor/evaluate their implementation.
- Oversee SUDC UK's financial plans and budgets and monitor/evaluate progress.
- Ensure effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- Ensure that key risks are being identified, monitored and controlled effectively.
- Review and approve SUDC UK's financial statements.
- Provide support and challenge to SUDC UK's CEO.
- Keep abreast of changes in SUDC UK's operating environment.
- Contribute to regular reviews of SUDC UK's governance. Attend board meetings and be adequately prepared to contribute to discussions.
- Use independent judgment, to promote and protect SUDC UK's interests.
- Contribute to the broader promotion of SUDC UK's objects, aims and reputation by applying your skills, expertise, knowledge and contacts.

As a small charity, there will be times when trustees will need to be actively involved beyond board meetings. This may involve scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, presenting externally, or advising on other issues.

TERMS OF OFFICE

- Trustees are appointed for a minimum of 3 years.
- This is a voluntary position, but trustee expenses are reimbursed.

TIME COMMITMENT

- Attending 4 board meetings annually, at least one in person.
- Attending periodic strategy days.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ad hoc and occasional support may be required with working groups and/or supporting the executive team.