



WOKINGHAM
UNITED CHARITIES

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT PACK

2023

Supporting people in need
in Wokingham since 1451
Charity No. 1107171



WOKINGHAM
UNITED CHARITIES

Introduction to the charity

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about our charity and exploring the opportunity of becoming a trustee or committee member.

Being a trustee on a Board for a charity is a vital but rewarding role.

To help with our five year plan we are looking to expand our Board of trustees. Whilst we may be looking to recruit people with specific skill sets, such as finance or grant funding knowledge, ultimately, if you have a passion for the voluntary sector and enthusiasm, we may have a role for you.



Our history

Our origins can be dated all the way back to 1451, when John Westende gifted eight cottages to the poor and needy people in Wokingham. Wokingham United Charities is an amalgamation of some 21 local charities, some of which date back to being the oldest charities in England.



Our resources

The charity is in the fortunate position of being financially secure. In accumulating the charities over the years, we inherited some land. This was sold in 2018 to developers and the proceeds invested. The charity now uses the income from the investments for its Relief in Need grant funding.

Our present

In the present day, we have two separate but linked aspects of work:

- the provision of low-cost accommodation in the form of twenty-seven one-bedroom flats for mainly older people who are in financial or social need but can still live independently
- a grant funder to both organisations and local charities and to individuals and families.

We are extremely proud of our history but know that in an ever evolving society we need to develop our offering to continue to support those facing financial hardship and enhance their quality of life. We want to do this by championing the voluntary sector, empowering our Wokingham Borough residents and creating opportunities for innovative projects.

Whilst we continue to offer Almshouses for those in need, our Relief in Need has evolved since the land was sold in 2018. We now have our own Essential Item grant programme providing essential items to those in financial hardship. Our organisational grant programmes provide funding to local charities and community groups with a primary focus of tackling poverty. We have also developed relationships with the Wokingham Borough Council and other charities to award government grants such as the Household Support grant. We are also a member of the Hardship Alliance which helped co-produce Wokingham Borough Council's very first Tackling Poverty Strategy.



Our Vision



Wokingham United Charities envisions a community where those facing hardship are not only supported, but empowered to lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty, creating a healthy, stable environment for themselves, their family and the community

Our Mission



Wokingham United Charities mission is to relieve poverty and enhance the quality of life of older people, children, adults and young adults in need in our community and therefore achieve our vision

Our Values

Opportunities



Proactively seeking opportunities to not only better ourselves as a charity, but finding ways we can present opportunities to our beneficiaries to enhance their lives

Integrity



Building trust through open communication, sincerity and mutual respect, holding a high ethical and professional standard

Respect



Treating all we encounter with care and valuing each individual's perspective

Community

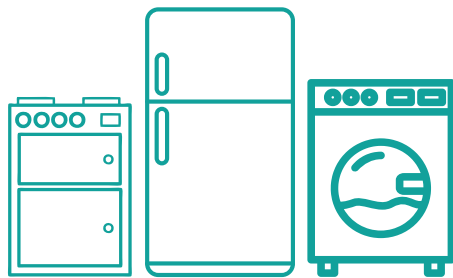


Passionate about our diverse community, which drives us to find innovative ways to help tackle community issues

Our achievements

Wokingham United Charities has awarded
£655,831 in grants since 2019

£121,976 grant awards to local organisations **tackling poverty**



Over **£75k** awarded to individuals and families through our **essential item grants**

£135k household support grants awarded to **698** individuals



Awarded **£4,760** in bankruptcy fees to discharge over **£250k** worth of debt

Partnerships formed with:

Berkshire Community Foundation

Hardship Alliance involving Age UK Berkshire, Citizens Advice Wokingham, First Days Children's Charity, Wokingham Borough Council

Who we are looking for

We are fortunate to have trustees who have a wealth of experience on our current Board. As the charity continues to grow we recognise the importance of diversifying and developing our expertise.

Whether you are an experienced trustee or looking to take your first steps in a charitable governance role, we would like to hear from you. If you have enthusiasm, passion and commitment, we have an opportunity for you. The role of trustees/committee members is a voluntary role therefore is unpaid; however we can reimburse reasonable expenses.

Board Trustee

The role of a charity trustee is of great importance and those who volunteer to be a trustee have overall responsibility for the charity. The Board provide strategic oversight, ensuring the charity delivers on it's charitable outcomes.

The term for trustees is four years, renewable after that for a further term.

For further information please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

Committee Member

The role of a committee member is a brilliant way for you to add value and use your skills in a more operational way.

We have three committees; Grants, Westende and Finance. Each with it's their own objectives.

The term for committee members is one year, renewable annually. If you find you are enjoying the committee member role, we would encourage you to consider stepping up to a Board trustee.



The role of a trustee/committee member

Being a good trustee/committee member

As a trustee/committee member you will need

- a commitment to our vision, mission and values
- strategic vision
- an understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by those we support or a willingness to explore this
- integrity and ability to make decisions that meet the charity's values and mission
- Sound judgement and an ability to contribute to meetings
- ability to work as a team member

Duty of care

A trustee/committee member must

- act with integrity
- avoid any conflicts of interest
- exercise reasonable care
- protect and safeguard colleagues, staff, residents and clients and others
- ensure financial stability of the charity
- protect and manage the charity's assets appropriately and ensure proper investment

Compliance & responsibilities

The Board of trustees must ensure that the charity complies with:

- Charity Law
- Charities Commission as the regulator
- our own Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity's governing document
- using its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects

Commitment

There is a minimum time commitment to be a trustee/committee member.

- Trustee Board meetings are held every six weeks which last approximately 2 hours
- Committee meetings are held throughout the year, a minimum of quarterly. We encourage trustees to sit on a committee to get a true understanding of the charity
- Preparation time e.g. reading papers ahead of meetings is an essential part of the role
- Our AGM is held annually
- There may be other key events that require charity representation, including project openings, thank you ceremonies and network events

We are particularly looking for people with knowledge and/or experience in the following specific areas but more important to us is to find the right people to develop our charity for the future.



Legal: a qualified solicitor preferably with experience in property, charity law and/contract



Finance: experience of financial strategy, investments and accounts



Social Housing: someone with experience of the social housing sector



Marketing: experience of increasing brand awareness and promotion

Why Choose us to volunteer with?

Biggest grant funder in Wokingham Borough making a difference to the voluntary community sector

Join a rapidly evolving charity

An opportunity to use your skills for a valuable purpose

Ability to make a local impact

Join a great team

Next steps

If you would like to apply to become a Wokingham United Charities trustee or committee member, please scan the QR below or contact us for an expression of interest form, 0118 403 2980 or manager@wokinghamunitedcharities.org.uk





WOKINGHAM UNITED CHARITIES



Contact us:

Wokingham United Charities

The Office, Westende Almshouses

London Road, Wokingham

Berkshire, RG40 1YA

Tel: 0118 403 2980

Website: www.wokinghamunitedcharities.org.uk

Email: admin@wokinghamunitedcharities.org.uk

Registered Address:

Clifton Ingram LLP, 22 – 24 Broad Street

Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 21BA

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