



**Community &
Voluntary Services**
cheshire east

Join us as a Trustee FAQ

1. Who is CVS Cheshire East?

Community and Voluntary Services (CVS) Cheshire East is a membership organisation that supports groups and organisations in the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector within the boundary of Cheshire East.

We currently have a membership of over 220 voluntary and community sector organisations and have a community network of over 1500 Voluntary, community and faith Groups within Cheshire East. We actively support over 400 of these organisations each year but communicate with them all!

Our purpose is to support our members to be the most effective, resilient and impactful they can be.

Our Vision: Building Strong, Empowered Communities that make a difference

Our Mission:

[Building Dynamic Communities](#)

Build Strong self-motivated communities that are skilled, informed and knowledgeable

[Inspiring Volunteering](#)

Inspire the community to volunteer and showcase the diverse range of roles available within the community

[Empower a Voice](#)

Empower the voluntary and community sector to have a strong voice

2. How is CVS Cheshire East managed?

We are a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee which is led by a Board of Trustees, who delegate the day to day management of the organisation to the CEO and the team of staff.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of CVS Cheshire East, developing the organisations aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document (copy enclosed in recruitment pack), legal and regulatory guidelines

3. How is CVS Cheshire East funded?

CVSCE is funded via a range of sources – from one off grants, through commissioned services to trading income.

As a charity, any surplus we generate is put back into our core mission to enhance the VCFSE Sector across Cheshire East. Our greatest expenditure is on our greatest asset – our people. We invest in individuals to deliver connecting and capacity building work across the borough.

Copies of our accounts can be found at www.cvsce.org.uk/about-us

4. Why should I be a Trustee for CVS Cheshire East?

Cheshire East as a place is going through a series of changes linked to the recovery from covid, significant changes in the health and care system and the expansion of social enterprise models of business development. This is an exciting time to contribute to the changing narratives about the VCFSE Sector and how community driven organisations can impact the biggest changes in our society.

The range of initiatives we support mean that no matter what your personal interest area, you will hear stories that resonate. We never underestimate the impact our members have on individual lives, and our support for volunteering is equally as transformative.

5. What does being a Trustee for CVS Cheshire East involve?

Being a trustee for any charity is a big decision and as a trustee you will be responsible for the charity so you should understand the role and the organisation. There may be some times when tough and difficult decisions need to be made, for example staff redundancies or removal of services.

Trustees that are joining the board from a member organisation must ensure that their actions on the board are at all times taken in the best interest of CVS Cheshire East not the organisation they are representing.

Being a trustee is a voluntary position and we don't offer a payment to our trustees for their time and expertise. However, we don't want financial barriers to prevent anyone becoming a trustee, so ensure that all out of pocket expenses are covered, including things like caring responsibilities for attendance at meetings, travel to events and any resources you need to fulfil your role.

We know that confident trustees with the right information make the best decisions, so we have an induction programme and individualised training offer to ensure you have everything you need to actively contribute to our work.

CVS Cheshire East is a Company Limited by guarantee which means that you will have limited liability if the organisation had financial problems. Each trustee is equally responsible in an organisation and we ensure that all trustees have access to the financial reports at the board meetings and through the Finance Committee.

It is expected that Trustees will need to commit around 8 hours per month to the role. This includes:

- 6 Board meetings per year (we set meeting dates in advance and try and

- accommodate different working patterns and responsibilities)
- Attending 1 away day per year
- Ad hoc attending events on behalf of CVS Cheshire East

6. What skills and experiences is CVS Cheshire East looking for in a Trustee?

We have a number of long standing trustees who are due to retire over the next year or so and therefore are seeking a wide range of potential skills sets to move our board forward. These include people who might have:

Financial skills – ability to read and understand simple management accounts and ask relevant questions of our finance leads OR

Governance skills – understanding of how good governance can support the delivery of strong impact in an organisation OR

Understanding our Membership – as a membership organisation, we are keen to ensure we consider perspectives from a range of VCFSE groups; large and small, volunteer-led and those with staff.

The Board would be keen to ensure that the board represents our membership and so would encourage individuals from a range of voluntary sector organisations including:

- Volunteer led organisations/groups – no paid staff
- Faith based organisations
- Social Enterprise organisations

We know we have more to do to ensure that we are truly representative of our local communities, so are particularly keen to hear from those who would categorise themselves as:

- Young People (18-35)
- Women
- Black, Asian, or other minoritised groups such as Roma, Gypsy or Traveller communities

7. What is your application process?

We have a live application process ending at the start of January.

Once your application is received a panel of trustees will review the application and then invite you for an informal interview to discuss the role.

Applicants successful after interview will then be invited to the next Trustee meeting.

Successful candidates will be co-opted onto the board until the next AGM where the appointment will be ratified by the membership.