

PARENT/CARER TRUSTEE VACANCY – February 2022

Downright Special is a thriving charity providing support to children and young people with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who work with them, across Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. As we continue to make plans to expand the services we want to deliver, we are looking for a new parent/carer Trustee to join the Board of Trustees to ensure our families are intrinsically involved in shaping the charity's future.

The Role

Trustees are responsible for ensuring the effective running of the charity, making sure it complies with statutory requirements and ensuring it is continually working to enable people with Down syndrome in Hull and East Yorkshire to attain their full potential. Working closely with the Charity Manager, Trustees are also responsible for strategy development, maintaining financial controls, ensuring the charity has robust governance processes in place and promoting the charity for the benefit of the children, young people and families who are part of the Downright Special family.

The **Parent/Carer Trustee's specific role** is to make sure the voice of our families is represented on the Board of Trustees, ensuring we are continuing to deliver services that maximise the benefit to the families we support. In particular, the parent Trustee would be involved in the Support and Advocacy priorities of the strategy (see attached) and in driving good two-way communication between the Trustees and families.

Skills and experience required

- A passion for ensuring children and young people with Down syndrome reach their full potential, and are fully included in all aspects of life
- An understanding of the needs of our families and an ability to represent these views objectively
- Good communication skills with an ability to contribute objectively to discussions and debate
- Parent/carer or other family member of a child/young person with Down syndrome
- Ability to challenge, interrogate data and provide support to the management team

Commitment

- Online attendance at bi-monthly Trustee meetings which usually take place on weekday evenings
- There will be some time required to prepare for meetings, particularly canvassing parental views. Dependant on interest, experience and availability, you may also get involved in specific projects which may take some time outside of the bi-monthly meetings
- Comply with the Charity Commission guidance for Trustees

Testimony from Kate Long (previous Parent /Carer Trustee)

"As a parent of a child supported by Downright Special, I have felt a real sense of purpose from being a Trustee, ensuring family voice continues to be at the very heart of Trustee decision-making. The role has served to increase my understanding of how the charity works at a local level as well as deepening my comprehension of key issues facing the disability community on a more national level. From a practical point of view, meetings moving to an online platform has made the role more manageable and time-efficient. The role has also served to support my own professional and personal development. I was welcomed as one of the Trustees from the first meeting – Trustees really want to hear parents' views to inform and drive decision-making. We are at such an exciting chapter in the life of Downright Special, and through this role, I have felt an integral part of future plans; overall, a real privilege. If you would like to discuss this role with me further, please do not hesitate to get in [contact by emailing me on kate.long@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:kate.long@downrightspecial.co.uk)."

How to apply

For more information, please contact Gillian Bowlas on 07776 172477 or email Gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk. Please note we follow safer recruiting guidelines. An enhanced DBS check will be required.