

**Pancreatic  
Cancer  
UK**

# **Board of Trustees**

Candidate brief for Scotland

# Let's take it on together

## Thank you for your interest in Pancreatic Cancer UK

It is a pleasure to know that you are interested in joining our Board of Trustees. Please find enclosed further information about the Charity, the disease and this position, which I hope you find helpful.

I joined the Board of Trustees in 2015 and became Chair in 2017, and this is an exciting time to join the organisation as we near the end of our five-year strategy and look to develop an ambitious, sector-leading strategy for the next five years.

### The toughest cancer challenge...

For people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer it is especially devastating as it is the toughest cancer to diagnose, treat and survive. One in four people won't survive for a month. Three in four won't survive for a year and in Scotland the five-year survival rate of 5.6 % is one of the worst rates in the world.

These survival rates are the lowest of all common cancers due to an alarming lack of investment in research to improve diagnosis and develop treatments; currently just 1% in Scotland where research is heavily reliant on charity funding. Added to this, there is a lack of awareness around pancreatic cancer, which means most people are not diagnosed until the disease is advanced and it's too late for treatment.

Our work in Scotland is a central part of our activity to take on pancreatic cancer. Researchers in Scotland are leading the way in developing new exciting approaches to tackle pancreatic cancer, particularly through the Precision Panc programme based in Glasgow and we are delighted to be the patient engagement partner for this initiative. We also chose Scotland as the location for our first ever [Future Leader's Academy](#), which we fund at the Beatson Centre, to further drive our ambition to attract the next generation of bright minds into the pancreatic cancer field.

As a charity we have been working hard to push pancreatic cancer up the political agenda in Scotland through the cross-party group, events and debates in the Scottish Parliament, and working with some very dedicated supporters. But we have

much more to do. Particularly to make sure that everyone diagnosed in Scotland knows about the services we provide and has access to our face to face services to reduce isolation and improve quality of life.

### We need change...

Pancreatic Cancer UK is determined to change the awful statistics associated with the disease.

By providing easily accessible expert support and information on treatments, we reassure those affected by pancreatic cancer that they are not alone. Despite our work, 24 people in the UK still die from this devastating disease every day, so we need to do more. We need change, fast, and we can't do this alone. We are now seeking a new trustee to join us to help take on pancreatic cancer.

### The Board of Trustees taking on the challenge...

We are at an exciting point as a charity, with big challenges, big ambitions, and the passion and energy to make big change happen. **We need trustees to help us realise our potential and we want Board membership to reflect the diverse society of the UK and its differing healthcare systems.**

**We would like our trustees to include young people and underrepresented communities. You may already have experience at Board level, but this is not essential and to help us achieve our ambitions we are very keen to talk to those who have knowledge of the health care/cancer sector in Scotland.**

You will also share our passion and determination to transform the future for everyone affected by pancreatic cancer.

**We need to stop pancreatic cancer taking too many lives, too soon.  
We hope you will join us.**

With best wishes,

Lynne Walker, Chair of the Board of Trustees

## **Our story so far**

Pancreatic Cancer UK's vision is to ensure that everyone with pancreatic cancer survives to live long and well. The charity was founded in 2006, at a time when five-year pancreatic cancer survival rates had remained at below 3% for nearly 40 years. UK investment in research was less than 1% of the total cancer research spend and patients were reporting the worst NHS experience of almost any cancer patient group. For the past 13 years, we have worked to be there for everyone involved in the fight against pancreatic cancer. We have supported thousands of people affected by this devastating disease, providing expert information and support, investment in research, and campaigning for greater recognition of pancreatic cancer.

## **Our achievements at a glance**

Pancreatic Cancer UK champions hope, in a disease that has been side-lined, ignored and underfunded for too long. Over the past five years, we have grown in our reach and recognition, developed new services and pioneered new thinking in pancreatic cancer.

- Through our efforts, there has been a significant increase in annual UK research spend. Over the past ten years we have invested almost £7m in the most innovative research which has unlocked a further £30m in funding from other sources.
- We have spear-headed early diagnosis research by bringing together and funding a team of 38 world-leading researchers. This is a first for pancreatic cancer and we are confident that through this collaboration, we can produce bolder, faster and more imaginative results. This exceptional team has delivered some promising findings and we know that they can deliver the type of knockout blow we need to make earlier diagnosis a reality.
- Our investment in research to improve treatment and care has led to some life-changing results. For example, surgeon Keith Roberts has undertaken research resulting in patients getting surgery faster; a reduction in waiting times from two months to two weeks has saved lives.
- We successfully campaigned for a commitment from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to produce clinical guidelines on pancreatic cancer. We have since taken a lead role in their development; a significant step forward in improving standards and consistency of care.

Looking forward, we must continue to drive for change, and we are more ambitious than ever before.

### It's time to take on pancreatic cancer together

Our current strategy – ['Taking it on together'](#) – takes our fight against pancreatic cancer to the next level. Over the next five years, we have committed to:

- Investing £10m in cutting-edge research into pancreatic cancer. We want to further grow our investment, working with the best and brightest scientists to be at the forefront of the most innovative research.
- Significantly growing our unique specialist support and information services. We must reach and support those affected by pancreatic cancer. Whilst we work hard to promote our services, still too many people are not aware of the direct support we offer, or are not able to access it.
- Driving up NHS standards, improving care and campaigning for change in health policy. We are working with patients, their families, professionals and other cancer charities to ensure that those affected by pancreatic cancer get the best treatment and care – nothing less than they deserve.

To deliver on our ambitious plans we must continue to have the leadership and engagement of a highly motivated, engaged and committed Board of Trustees.

### Time commitment

The Board meets four times a year in addition to which there is an annual Away Day which includes strategic planning and self-assessment. Trustees are encouraged to undertake at least one research visit every six months and/or another activity on behalf of the Board, such as attendance at, or involvement in, a fundraising event. The initial period of office is four years. Meetings are currently held in central London but for our Scotland trustee participation in meetings does not depend upon travel to London and can be arranged via an internet link. However, all trustees are expected to attend the Trustee Board meeting and strategic planning away day in London on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Trustees are not remunerated although reasonable expenses are paid.

## Support from Pancreatic Cancer UK

The new trustees will have:

- ***a personal point of contact*** – each new trustee will have a trustee mentor from within the Board to guide and support them through their first year.
- ***the full support of the senior management team*** - including the Chief Executive, who attends all Trustee Board meetings and Away Days.
- ***access to an online Trustee Information Resource*** – the TIR is a repository for meeting papers, reports, newsletters and information relating to governance and the role of trustees.
- ***a full induction programme*** - which will give real insight into the vital work that Pancreatic Cancer UK delivers.
- ***appropriate training where identified***

## The role of trustees - key responsibilities in summary

The key role of the Pancreatic Cancer UK Board of Trustees is the governance of the organisation ensuring that the charity acts in accordance with its constitution and that its activities are in furtherance of its objects. This requires a longer term and less hands-on approach. The management of the charity is undertaken by the CEO and senior staff and is best described as the day to day activity involved in implementing the higher-level, longer-term decisions of the Board.

1. The Board of Trustees is responsible for:
  - setting Pancreatic Cancer UK's strategic objectives, the strategy to achieve them and Pancreatic Cancer UK's major policies.
  - monitoring the performance of Pancreatic Cancer UK.
  - identifying and managing the major risks facing Pancreatic Cancer UK
  - trustees are responsible for ensuring that the CEO exercises effective leadership and management of the Executive Staff and total organisation
2. The Board of Trustees is accountable to Pancreatic Cancer UK's stakeholders and this includes giving a written account of their stewardship of Pancreatic Cancer UK's resources in the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts.
3. All trustees are expected to represent the charity both proactively within their own networks but also at charity events, meetings, etc.

All trustees are expected to operate within the charity's policies, including the conflict of interest policy and are expected to sign a copy of our Code of Conduct for Trustees.

### How to apply

If you are interested please send a statement about why you wish to join us and what you would bring to the Board, to [jobs@pancreaticcancer.org.uk](mailto:jobs@pancreaticcancer.org.uk) together with a short CV. In addition, candidates may also request an informal conversation via telephone or video call with existing Trustees and Directors to understand more about the position.

The successful candidate will take up their role with immediate effect.

For further information about the charity, please refer to our latest [Annual Report and Accounts](#).

Please note: The charity is registered both as a charity and a limited company. Every trustee is also a director of the company and has legal responsibilities and potential liabilities in each capacity. Full details of these are not included in this role description but can be obtained from the Chair of the Board.

We undertake enhanced criminal record checks on trustees because the charity delivers direct services to vulnerable adults but do not do this until a role of trustee has been confirmed. We abide by the [DBS Code of Practice](#), [Disclosure Scotland Code of Practice](#) and [Access NI Code of Practice](#).