

Information pack

# Joining the Iriss Board

November 2021



---

## Our ambition and vision

Iriss' vision is for a Scotland where people and communities are supported to live their best life possible. For our vision to be achieved substantial changes in how public services are planned, understood and delivered have to happen. Social work and social care support, in particular, needs to work radically better for people.

This is an exciting time to work in social work and social care support as we navigate one of the biggest changes to the way we work -The National Care Service.

This is an exciting time to join Iriss. We are in year one of our new strategy and exploring our key role shaping and supporting innovation and change in social work and social care.

## What we do

We are a [dedicated team](#) of facilitators, researchers, project leads, designers and digital professionals offering five types of support to people, workers and organisations.

- **Spark:** We support people, workers and organisations to innovate and explore different ways of working through our innovation and systems change support programmes.
- **Illuminate:** we help people, workers and organisations make better use of the information they collect through information insight programmes.
- **Stream:** We work with people, workers and organisations to make use of digital for learning, development and innovation.
- **Reflect:** We create the conditions for knowledge-based practice and decision making through our practice support programmes

- 
- **Kindle:** We bring different types of knowledge together, making it accessible and useable for workers through our knowledge summaries, knowledge translation work, insights and research service.

You can read more about what we do (and why we do it) in our [2021-2024 Strategy and current workplan](#)

## What matters to us

- **Working alongside people, workers, teams and organisations:** we build on people's strengths and draw out their expertise. We know this is the best way to lead change that works.
- **Knowledge for a purpose** - We define knowledge in the widest sense, building on existing knowledge and listening to the people we work with as to what solutions are practical and workable for them.
- **Connecting for a purpose**— we know that change happens when changemakers are linked together.
- **Tailoring support**- because one size fits nobody when it comes to supporting change 'silver bullets' and quick answers don't cut it.
- **Flexibility**- we live and work in a swiftly changing world- we expect change and plan accordingly.
- **Innovation for a purpose**— we look for different and imaginative ways to do things and support others to do the same.
- **Making things clear** – the things we make, write and do are clear and if they aren't we fix it.

## What we need from you

We are committed to growing our Board and making sure that it properly reflects the diversity of people and organisations that we support. We would particularly

---

like to hear from people with experience of using social work or social care support or being an unpaid carer.

We are looking for people who:

- Have a real interest in social work and social care and how the way we do these could be changed for the better.
- Understand the role and [responsibilities of a charity Trustee](#) or are committed to learning about these
- Are over 18 years and live in the United Kingdom
- Have experience/skills in accessing, or working in, health, social care or other support services.

## About Board meetings

We have four board meetings a year (Jan/April/July/Oct) Board meetings last two hours and including time to prepare and read papers the commitment is approximately 4-6 hours of work every quarter.

Some Board Members sit on committees associated with their interest and expertise. These meetings last about 1- 1.5 hours.

Although our organisation is based in Glasgow we are currently meeting online (Zoom) and are open to continuing to do this where it suits our Board members.

## What a Board Member does

The members of the Strategic Board are Directors of the company and Trustees of the charity. Collectively the Board is responsible for the leadership, strategic direction and governance of Iriss, ensuring that the organisation meets its purpose and is accountable and transparent in its activities.

---

## Main responsibilities

Together with other members of the Board you will:

### **Strategy**

- Ensure our activities deliver our stated charitable purpose.
- Ensure we have a clear vision and strategy, and we are focussed on achieving our outcomes (the change we seek to make in our work.)
- Work with us to make sure our purpose, work and outcomes remain relevant and support the needs of the people, workers and organisations we work with.

### **Regulation and compliance**

- Ensure we meet all our regulatory and legal requirements.
- Ensure we manage risks to the organisation through effective and proportionate risk management and regular discussion.

### **Financial**

- Ensure that we have good financial and management controls.
- Approve our annual budget and ensure we plan for the future.
- Ensure Iriss has a workable sustainability strategy.
- Act as a steward of Iriss' assets- physical, monetary and intellectual.

### **Accountability**

- Make clear, reasonable and collegiate decisions acting always in the best interests of the charity.
- Hold the senior management team of Iriss to account for Iriss' performance, supporting and guiding as appropriate.
- Ensure that Iriss delivers on all of our activities.
- Appoint the CEO and review their performance.

---

## How to apply

If you're thinking of applying but want to talk to someone from the Board first get in touch with [ian.boa@iriss.org.uk](mailto:ian.boa@iriss.org.uk) to arrange an exploratory chat.

To apply, tell us why you are interested in being a member of the Iriss Board with a brief discussion of the skills and experience you would bring. You can do that in writing, by audio or video.

Please send your note of interest to [ian.boa@iriss.org.uk](mailto:ian.boa@iriss.org.uk) by **5pm on Friday 17 December 2021**.

We will carry out short informal interviews on Zoom no earlier than w/c 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at a mutually convenient time.