



2021 TRUSTEE APPLICATIONS

This document provides background information on CPAG and how to become one of its Trustees.

We are seeking Trustees to support our work in relation to:

- Policy and Research
- Scotland and Wales

The Challenge of Child Poverty

The Child Poverty Action Group is at the forefront of the campaign to end child poverty, in challenging times for families with children. Cuts in social security and the roll out of Universal Credit have taken their toll. And after many years of reductions in child poverty, numbers are now rising sharply. Around 4.3 million children, up by 700k since 2010, and 40% of lone parents live in poverty in the UK. Black and minority ethnic families are more likely to live in poverty. More than 75% of children growing up in poverty live in a household where at least one person works.

But these are times of hope. We have been in the vanguard of successful campaigns to reduce waiting times from Universal Credit and to introduce a new child payment in Scotland. Through our ground-breaking Cost of the School Day Project we are helping schools to address inequities in the school day. We have digitised much of our information and training resources so that those advising families have the right knowledge at their finger tips during and beyond the Covid crisis.

General Information about CPAG

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) is a registered charity established in 1965 and a company limited by guarantee. CPAG is the leading charity campaigning for the end of child poverty in the UK and for a better deal for low-income families and children.

To achieve its purpose, CPAG:

- Raises awareness of the causes, extent, nature and impact of poverty, and strategies for its eradication and prevention;
- Brings about positive policy changes for families with children;
- Enables those eligible for social security payments to have access to their full entitlement.

CPAG's activities include: lobbying and media work; welfare rights advice; training and test case work; research, policy and campaigning; information provision and publishing and

membership. CPAG is a membership organisation and members provide it with regular support.

We have offices in London and Glasgow from which this work is undertaken right across the UK.

We have a highly skilled and motivated staff group who aspire to make CPAG an organisation that is setting the standards for a charity of its size.

We have a long and proud track record of achievement, including the establishment of Child Benefit, changing the law to gain greater social security rights for families in poverty and winning the Child Poverty Act. We are leading the fight against the much-publicised problems with Universal Credit.

For further information on CPAG operations see the Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 [click here](#)

Trustee of CPAG – Notes on the Role

We have a highly skilled and motivated team of Trustees from a wide range of backgrounds: private and public sectors, academia and charities.

The Trustees of the Child Poverty Action Group share responsibility for the charity's performance in meeting its Objects as set out in its Articles of Association, which are to 'prevent poverty among children and families with children and to promote action for the relief directly or indirectly of such poverty'. Copies of CPAG's Articles are available on request.

The Trustees ensure that CPAG's actions conform to the legal and governance framework laid out in the relevant Companies Acts and by the Charity Commission.

Trustees' term of office is three years with the opportunity to serve two further terms of three years. There is also a provision for the co-option of additional Trustees who serve for one year terms and can be reappointed for two further terms. The Board appoints a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer from its number to act as CPAG's officers for the coming year.

We are a membership organisation and invite nominations from our members.

The Trustees hold four Board meetings each year and in addition have one Away Day. Meetings are generally held at our office in central London, though are currently held online. Trustees are expected to attend each meeting and to be well prepared to contribute. There are four committees which support the Board. These are the Staff, Resources and Administration Committee (which includes business and finance), the Policy Committee, the Scottish Advisory Committee and the Digital Committee. Most Trustees sit on one of these sub-committees. It is likely that some or all of the committee meetings will continue be held online, in part to make it easier for trustees to contribute from across the UK.

We are interested at this time in applicants in the following areas:

- Policy and Research – to join and chair the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee has members from the Board, external members with research and policy expertise, and CPAG staff working in these areas. The Committee discusses ways for CPAG to influence policy and practice in order to meet CPAG’s first two strategic objectives (achieve all party support to end child poverty, renew social security to achieve secure futures for children and families) via research, legal challenges, and campaigns.
- Scotland – to join the Scottish Advisory Committee, and may be asked to chair that committee in the future. The Scotland Advisory Committee includes members of the Board along with external members who have expertise in the Scottish policy, rights and political context within which CPAG operates to further its strategic objectives. It provides advice and support to CPAG in its Scotland related policy and campaigning work and second tier welfare rights and advice activity.
- Wales – as our work is currently expanding there.

Previous governance experience is valuable, but applicants need not have previous experience as Trustees so long as they bring the relevant skills and are ready to become effective Trustees. We value input from full time executives so long as they can commit the time. All applicants should be committed to our mission and share our perspective that poverty is primarily a financial issue.

We particularly welcome applications from black, asian and minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ candidates and candidates with disabilities. We encourage applications from all socio-economic groups including those who have themselves experienced poverty. We believe that a diverse board leads to better results.

Trustees are not remunerated but reasonable expenses incurred in the role are reimbursed.

For those who wish to consider the wider responsibilities of being a Trustee and the associated legal responsibilities we suggest reading. Charity Commission: The Essential Trustee What you need to know [click here](#). NCVO: the Good Trustee Guide [click here](#)

How to apply

Those who wish to apply to become a Trustee should

- Complete the attached Application Form
- Submit a 250 word statement in support of their application
- Attach an up to date CV
- Give the names of three referees who we can approach if you are short listed – with your prior consent

Applications must be received by **Monday 14th February**.

Please submit applications to Lisa Baird, Child Poverty Action Group, 30 Micawber Street, London N1 7TB or email office@cpag.org.uk. If you would like to discuss your application, please call Lisa on 0207 812 5201.



Application Form

Personal details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel Nos: Home: _____ Mobile _____ Work: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I attach no more than 250 words giving biographical details and my reasons for standing for the Board of Trustees and a cv

I confirm that I am standing for appointment to the Board of Trustees of CPAG and I am not aware of any legal or ethical impediment to acting as such.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Checklist to send:

Completed Application form

Supporting Statement

Full CV