



Active Communities

Board of Trustees

Recruitment Information. August 2026



About Active Communities.

Active Communities is a community-led health and wellbeing charity working alongside local people to build healthier, more connected and resilient communities across Renfrewshire. Last year we engaged over 3,800 people across Renfrewshire and reached an additional 750 people through our telephone befriending service. We support over 60 people weekly through our community pantry and excited to be expanding this service to include a mobile party van.

From our community hub, Station Seven in Johnstone, and through programmes delivered across local communities, we support people of all ages to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life. We believe improved health and lasting change happens when people feel valued, empowered, supported and connected to others.

Our work is shaped by listening to local people and responding to the issues that matter most to them. Over time, this has led to the development of a broad range of activities and services that help address some of the wider factors that influence health and wellbeing, including social isolation, physical inactivity, poor mental health, food insecurity and financial hardship.

Our Work.

Today, our work is organised around four connected areas:

Active Connected Communities

Creating opportunities for people to become more active, improve their physical and mental wellbeing, build confidence and develop meaningful social connections through community-based activities, wellbeing programmes and specialist support groups in Johnston and Gallowhill.

Food and Nutrition

Supporting individuals and families to access nutritious food, develop practical cooking and budgeting skills, improve food confidence and reduce food insecurity through our pantry in Johnstone, community meals and food education programmes.

Children Families and Communities

Working alongside children, young people and families to provide opportunities that strengthen wellbeing, build resilience and support positive family relationships through the provision of out of school clubs, peer youth development, specialists' interventions and community-based support.

Volunteering and Community Participation

Creating opportunities for local people to contribute their time, skills and experience, recognising that volunteering not only strengthens our organisation but also builds confidence, skills, employability, friendships and a greater sense of belonging within communities.

Although each area has its own focus, they are closely connected. Someone may first visit Active Communities for practical support through the pantry, later join a wellbeing activity, become involved in volunteering and ultimately build lasting friendships and confidence through wider community participation.

This connected approach helps us make the best use of our people, partnerships and resources, while ensuring our fundraising and organisational development continue to support our long-term mission of improving health and wellbeing across Renfrewshire.

Our Work cont'd

Station Seven – At the Heart of Our Community

For the last 4 years, Station Seven has both been Active Communities home as well as a welcoming community hub where people come together to access support, build relationships and take part in activities that improve their health and wellbeing.

From Station Seven we deliver many of our own programmes, host community partners, support volunteers, provide affordable space for local groups and generate earned income that is reinvested into our charitable work.

The building enables us to bring together people, organisations and services under one roof, creating opportunities for collaboration and helping people move easily between different forms of support. Someone may first visit for the pantry, return for a community meal, join an activity group, volunteer or access wider support through one of our partners.

Alongside our work in communities across Renfrewshire, such as Gallowhill, Station Seven has become an important community and organisational asset and provides a strong foundation for the organisation's long-term sustainability and future development.

Our Board of Trustees.

Helping shape the future of Active Communities.

Active Communities is governed by a committed Board of Trustees who share a passion for improving health and wellbeing across Renfrewshire and ensuring the organisation remains true to its charitable purpose. Working alongside the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team, the Board provides strategic leadership, oversight and constructive challenge, helping ensure the organisation is well governed, financially resilient and focused on delivering lasting benefit for the communities we serve. Our Trustees bring a wide range of professional knowledge and local experience, while sharing a common commitment to collaboration, integrity and community-led decision making.

The Board is currently led by our Chair, Susie Paterson, whose extensive leadership experience within the third sector, together with her background in marketing and communications, has helped guide Active Communities through a period of significant growth and development.

Alongside Susie, our Trustees bring expertise across business development, information technology, social care and active aging. Together they provide valuable insight and support as the organisation continues to grow and evolve.

The Board meets every two - three months, primarily at Station Seven in Johnstone, with occasional strategy sessions and development opportunities throughout the year.

Who we are looking for.

As Active Communities continues to grow, we are looking to strengthen our Board by welcoming three new Trustees whose knowledge and experience will complement the skills already around our Board table. In particular, we would welcome applications from people with experience in one of the following areas:

Legal

Experience of charity, employment or commercial law would help strengthen our governance and support the organisation as it continues to develop.

Finance, Accounting or Audit

Experience of financial management, audit or accountancy, ideally within the charity or public sector, would help support effective financial oversight and long-term sustainability.

Public Health

Experience of public health, prevention, adult social care or health improvement would bring valuable insight as we continue to develop community-led approaches that improve health and reduce inequalities.

Marketing and Strategic Communications

Experience of working in the strategic communications and marketing sector with a specific focus on driving individual donor engagement, story telling and social media for social change.

Whilst these areas represent our current priorities, we welcome applications from anyone who shares our values and believes they can make a positive contribution to the future of Active Communities.

What makes a great Trustee.

You don't need previous Trustee experience to join our Board.

We are looking for people who:

- believe in the power of communities and individual resilience to improve health and wellbeing;
- enjoy working collaboratively and respectfully with others;
- can think strategically and see the bigger picture;
- are committed to good governance and continuous improvement;
- can contribute their time, experience and enthusiasm to help Active Communities thrive.
- are committed to the importance the third sector brings to Renfrewshire.

We are committed to building a diverse Board that reflects the communities we serve and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and experiences.

A message from our Chair.

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little more about Active Communities. I hope this pack has given you a sense of the organisation we are today - our values, our people and our commitment to supporting healthier, more connected communities across Renfrewshire.

As Chair of the Board, I believe this is an exciting time to become involved. Over recent years Active Communities has grown steadily, establishing Station Seven as a thriving community hub, expanding our programmes across Renfrewshire to include Gallowhill and building strong relationships with our communities, partners and funders. We are fortunate to have a committed Board, an experienced staff team and more than 56 volunteers who give their time and energy to improving the lives of others.

With the appointment of our new Chief Executive earlier this year, we are now entering the next stage of our journey.

Together we are strengthening our governance, reviewing our long-term business development plans and ensuring that Active Communities continues to be financially resilient while remaining true to the communities we serve.

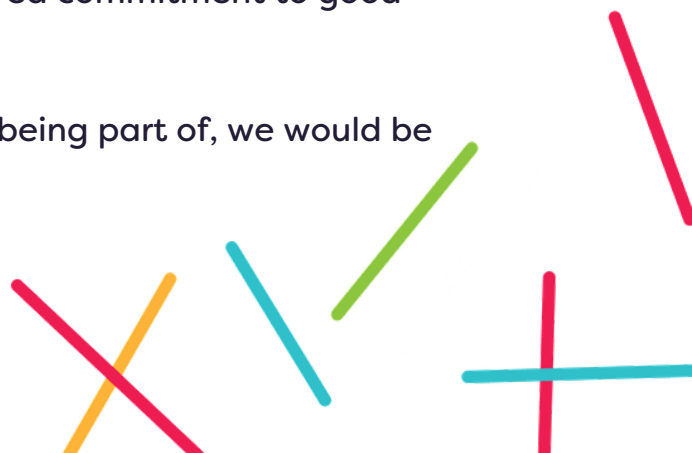
We see enormous potential in Station Seven—not simply as our home, but as a valuable community asset that enables us to bring people together, develop new partnerships and generate income that supports our charitable work. We also recognise that the way we think about health is changing. Nationally and locally there is an increasing emphasis on preventing poor health before it occurs, reducing health inequalities and strengthening communities as places where people can live healthier, more connected lives.

Active Communities is well placed to contribute to that ambition. Working alongside Renfrewshire Council, the Health and Social Care Partnership and many valued community partners, we want to continue developing practical, community-led solutions that make a real difference to people's everyday lives.

To help us achieve this, we are looking for Trustees who will bring fresh perspectives, professional expertise and a shared commitment to good governance and community leadership.

If that sounds like something you would enjoy being part of, we would be delighted hear from you.

Susie Paterson
Chair of Trustees



What next .

Please send your CV and expression of interest, highlighting your motivation to join the board to info@activecommunities.co.uk by 4th September 2026.

For an informal conversation about the role, contact Sarah Hand, CEO, on info@activecommunities.co.uk.

A satisfactory PVG (adults and children) will be required for the role.

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