

# Trustee Pack – July 2025

## Join our charity board as a trustee

### About us

Colostomy UK is the national charity for everyone living with a stoma whether it's a colostomy, ileostomy or and urostomy. At the heart of everything we do is lived experience. Life with a stoma can bring challenges, and we're here to offer understanding, reassurance, and practical support when it's needed most.

Our helpline, peer support services, on-line networks, and printed resources provide trusted advice and builds connections within the UK's stoma community. We champion voices that too often go unheard, campaigning for dignity, choice in care and products, equal access to services, and an end to stigma. We collaborate with healthcare professionals, educators, workplaces, and policy makers to make systems more inclusive and responsive to the needs of people with a stoma. From newly formed stomas to long-term experience, our community is a powerful force for change. Every guide we create, every story we share, and every barrier we break helps someone feel less alone and more empowered.

Colostomy UK is more than a charity it's a movement of people who believe that everyone with a stoma should be seen, heard, and supported to live a life of their choosing, free from shame and full of possibility

- **Application:** CV and covering letter to [joinourteam@ColostomyUK.org](mailto:joinourteam@ColostomyUK.org)
- **Closing date: 5th September at Midnight**
- **Interviews:** Informal chat with Chief Executive followed by Interview with our Chair and a trustee
- **Voluntary role:** This is a voluntary role and therefore unpaid; however, agreed reasonable expenses, such as travel costs for meetings and events, will be reimbursed.

### The role

As our charity trustee at Colostomy UK, you will play a critical role as part of our board. Key responsibilities include:

We know that people from certain backgrounds are under-represented at board level, and we are particularly keen to receive applications from people of colour, people with disabilities, hidden conditions and neurodiversity, people from disadvantaged backgrounds and people who identify as being LGBTQIA+ so that we have better representation to help develop our work appropriately and support all communities in our society.

### Key Responsibilities of a Trustee

As a trustee of Colostomy UK, you will play a vital role in helping us deliver on our mission, support our CEO and team, and ensure that we remain a strong, transparent, and forward-thinking charity. Your contributions will help shape our future, strengthen our voice, and amplify our impact.

1. **Strategic Leadership & Accountability:** Play an active role in shaping the charity's strategic direction, ensuring we remain true to our Purpose, Aims, Vision, and Values. Help hold the organisation, including the Board, CEO and team to account, championing transparency, impact, and ethical leadership at every level.

2. **Support & Oversight:** Provide constructive oversight of our finances and operations, ensuring that resources are managed responsibly, effectively, and in line with our mission. Support the CEO and team as a critical friend, offering guidance, encouragement, and challenge where needed.
3. **Fundraising & Resource Development:** Champion and support our fundraising efforts by helping to shape strategy, open doors, and build connections. Use your influence and insight to help secure the financial sustainability of our services, programmes, and future growth.
4. **Active Involvement:** Contribute your skills, time, and expertise by participating in relevant committees or working groups, helping to drive forward key projects and initiatives that will enhance the charity's reach and impact.
5. **Ambassadorial Leadership:** Serve as a visible and credible ambassador for Colostomy UK. Representing the charity at public events, engaging with supporters and donors, and building meaningful relationships with individuals, funders, and partners. As a trustee, your voice and presence help elevate the charity's profile and extend its reach.

**To be considered for this role, you will ideally have:**

- Passion for improving the lives of people with stomas.
- You'll hopefully bring experience or awareness in one or more of the following: charity accounts, fundraising best practice, the charity sector, or our operating environment. Just as importantly, you'll have the enthusiasm and openness to take part in training and induction to build your knowledge across all of these areas
- A strong commitment to the charity's purpose and values.
- The willingness and ability to dedicate time and effort to fulfill your trustee responsibilities - be generous with your support, offer your skills, expertise, and networks; be willing to challenge the status quo and ask questions.
- Relevant additional skills, experience, or expertise that can benefit the trustee role (e.g. lived experience, financial, legal, marketing, HR, campaigning, volunteering, PR etc.).

The charity's work and strategic objectives are overseen by the board of trustees, who meet at least four times a year to review the organisation's work, finances and services and to agree the charity's strategic goals. The Chief Executive and relevant managers also attend these meetings.

The day-to-day operation of the charity is led by the Chief Executive, Libby Herbert, supported by a small team of employees and a large, fabulous and essential volunteer base.

There are various committees, all comprising trustees and operational employees who meet regularly to discuss the charity's operations and progress on strategic objectives, and who make recommendations to the full Board of Trustees. These currently include:

- Finance Committee
- People Committee
- Income Generation Committee

### Time commitment:

- Trustees are expected to attend induction sessions at Colostomy UK as soon as practicable following their appointment, preferably prior to their first board meeting. Some of these can be done virtually. However, a visit to the office will be essential.
- Trustees are expected to attend at least 3 out of 4 board meetings a year – Two of these meetings are held virtually and two meetings are all day meetings, in person at our office in Winnersh, Wokingham.
- Trustees are also expected to attend our AGM (Annual General Meeting where we sign off the previous year's accounts) - normally held at the weekend or in the evening. Also, two strategic planning days (held during normal office hours).
- Trustees will be asked to join specific committee / working group / team meetings too.
- Trustees may be asked to attend at least two other events over the course of the year (Open days, Engagement Events, Fundraising Events etc...)
- **The average number of hours per year would be up to 55.**
- **Benefits: Although this is a voluntary role, reasonable expenses (such as travel for meetings) will be reimbursed.**

### OUR PURPOSE - WHY WE'RE HERE

We exist to make a positive difference for anyone impacted by any kind of stoma or stoma surgery.

### OUR WORK - WHAT WE DO

Founded in 1967, we became a registered charity in 2006, and we maintain our original mission to this day: to support people with stomas and those who care about them.

There are now over 200,000 people living with a stoma at any one time in the UK who benefit from the work that we do:

- Provide practical and emotional support and advice whenever it's needed.
- Run projects that empower and build confidence to take on fresh challenges.
- Are a voice on the issues that matter, campaigning and advocating for ostomates' rights.

### OUR VISION - WHERE WE'RE GOING

We want to live in a world where having a stoma presents no obstacles or barriers and carries no stigma.

A world where people can:

- Get the right information and advice, at the right time, at the right stage of their

stoma journey.

- Have access to the facilities and resources they need when and where they need them.
- Live their lives to the fullest without fear of discrimination or prejudice.

## OUR VALUES

At Colostomy UK the way we behave matters to us deeply. In everything we do, we are guided by and strive to meet the following values:

### SUPPORT AND EMPOWER

Two things matter more than anything else to us: supporting people with or about to have a stoma and empowering them to get the most out of life. For us, supporting and empowering people is also about finding new ways to do this, so we aren't complacent. Being innovative, creative, courageous, and tenacious is in our DNA.

### KNOWLEDGE

We are stoma experts. This is no empty claim, but backed by the collective knowledge we have accumulated since we were founded in 1967. And, because we prize learning, we add to this knowledge every day. We know all about the many ways in which having a stoma can impact on life. We know the challenges, we know the fears, we know the concerns and the worries. We know the ups and the downs. We also have the know-how to help, reassure, and support.

### COMPASSION

We are compassionate and caring. We know what it's like to go through stoma surgery and what a struggle it can often be to get life back on track afterwards. We understand how even the small things can have a big effect on someone's wellbeing. We don't judge, instead we are patient, respectful and understanding listeners.

### INCLUSIVITY

The diseases, illnesses and injuries that make stoma surgery necessary don't discriminate and nor do we. People from all walks of life, all cultural and religious backgrounds, and all ages, even babies, have stomas and we are here for every single one of them. For us, inclusivity is also about understanding things from different points of view. Doing this helps us to shape the support we offer, making sure that we can respond in positive, meaningful, and impactful ways to the many and varied needs of people with stomas.

### TOGETHERNESS

Our strength comes from engaging with others. We've been doing this throughout our history. It's by working collaboratively with healthcare professionals, people with stomas, local government, businesses, and other organisations, that we fulfil our purpose. We believe that the way to achieve our vision is by sharing problems and solving them together.

## To apply

If you are passionate about making a difference and being part of an amazing team, and you have the time and dedication to serve our charity as a trustee, please send your CV and a brief statement of interest to [joinourteam@ColostomyUK.org](mailto:joinourteam@ColostomyUK.org) by **midnight on 5th September 2025**.

If you would like to discuss the role.

**In your cover letter, please tell us:**

- About your relevant experience
- What skills and qualities will you bring to the role
- Why you'd like to volunteer for us
- Where you saw the job advertised

Interviews will take place at our office in Winnersh or virtually. We will respond to all applications. If you require any adjustments during the interview process, please let us know.

An enhanced DBS disclosure will be required for this role.

