

Advisory Committee Chair Recruitment brief (2023)

Background

Community Links is a local charity based in Newham with a national impact. For over 45 years, we have been working to tackle poverty and social exclusion in the most deprived neighbourhoods across East London. Through both our direct work, as well as our extensive network of projects, we help people of all ages; empowering individuals to support themselves and each other.

In 2016, we joined Catch22 - a charity and social business. In early 2021, we built on our partnership and merge fully with Catch22, while retaining a separate brand, maintaining our commitment to Newham, and seeking to develop our programmes and services. The Advisory Committee is central to this.

The role of the Advisory Committee Chair is to lead the Advisory Committee in safeguarding Community Links' legacy, reputation and to shape our future activities; ensuring Community Links continues to thrive while being part of Catch22.

The current composition of the advisory committee can be found here. It is yet to be updated with four new members. Additionally the Chair role is no longer held by Elizabeth Booker who is now our Interim Director of Communities, leading Community Links: <https://www.community-links.org/about-us/advisory-committee-2/>

Who are we looking for?

We are looking to recruit a Chair who is as passionate as we are about helping the community. We hope to attract a variety of applicants, with an emphasis on reflecting the diverse communities where Community Links works, the ability to provide local intelligence, and the ability to scrutinise technical elements such as the annual budget.

Qualifications and skills

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then we would like to hear from you:

- Are you from Newham, or elsewhere in East London, and do you have an understanding of the sorts of issues that matter most to the diverse community in these areas?
- Do you have professional or personal experience of legal advice, homelessness, debt services, welfare benefits, poverty, employability services, food banks, health inequality, mental health, youth services, community services?
- Are you a current or former Community Links service user, or a service user of another local community charity or faith organisation, who is passionate about using your experience to help others?
- Do you work for a statutory body like the Council, responsible for delivering services for the community?

- Do you work for a local business – from across East London - and have an active interest in the community whether through formal CSR programmes or volunteering?
- Do you have the technical skills, knowledge and experience to scrutinise budgets, input into strategy and help develop charitable programmes and services?

Additional information

This is a voluntary role, however, reasonable expenses will be provided to enable meeting attendance.

Appointments will be made on a two-year cycle, renewable for a maximum of four years

The Committee will meet for up to 2 hours four times a year unless it agrees to meet more frequently for specific reasons.

Once recruitment is live, candidates will be encouraged to apply by submitting a CV and short statement about their motivation for applying and how they meet any one or more of the questions listed under 'qualifications' above.