



# Trustee Information Pack

# Surrey Care Trust

We are the local charity working with volunteers to make Surrey a place where vulnerable people have the opportunities, skills, and support they need to achieve their potential.



We support some of the most vulnerable and socially marginalised people in Surrey - those from low-income families, vulnerable young people and low skilled adults – to give them the confidence and self belief, skills and education, aspirations, and opportunities to create better lives for themselves and their families.



Together, we are breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage in Surrey.

# Surrey Care Trust

In the past year, we supported with over **3,800** individuals across the county.

Working with nearly 600 volunteers, we helped them to become better parents, find stable employment, build their confidence and resilience, and gain the qualifications or personal skills they need to progress in life.

We achieved this through our cohesive approach across three complementary strands:

**Skills to Thrive:** helping people to build their confidence and skills to create better chances for life, learning, and work

**Flourishing Families:** supporting families to provide positive childhoods and supportive families

**Nurture through Nature:** harnessing the power of nature to help people improve their wellbeing and engagement with their local communities.





# Julie's Story

“ Julie doesn't know what she would have done without you. ”



Julie was pregnant and suffered from a lack of confidence and depression and had become an introvert. She had gone through an emotionally challenging time having nowhere to live with 2 young boys.

When she was eventually allocated accommodation it came with severe problems. The tiny flat was covered in mould and damp and seriously affecting the boy's health and hers. Julie was struggling to find the energy to do anything as her depression took hold. Julie realised that something had to be done for the boys and her unborn child.

Initially, Julie was very shy and reserved, she wasn't sure about meeting her family mentor and life was overwhelming for her. Her volunteer mentor was able to gain her trust and support her.

With her mentor's help, Julie wrote to the council and, after many meetings and an assessment of the property, she was finally moved into more suitable accommodation. Although she was proud of her achievement, this came with further complications - she didn't own any furniture!

Again, her mentor was able to support her to find low cost and free furniture including new beds for the boys. For the first time ever the boys had a bedroom of their own to sleep in. Julie hoped that a peaceful night's sleep would help the boys settle down at school.

Gradually over time, Julie saw her mentor less and less. Occasionally she would call to 'sound something out', she just wanted reassurance and her mentor was able to provide that.

# Surrey Care Trust Trustees

Our Trustees are volunteers responsible for governing the Trust and directing how it is managed and run. They bring a wide range of skills and experiences from business, charity, and our local communities.

Together they help drive our work and ensure we make the greatest difference we possibly can.

The board comprises up to twelve Trustees and includes a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Together they work as a group (not as individuals) and make up our Board of Trustees.

A full list of the Board's members can be found [here](#).



# Surrey Care Trust

## Trustees

The Trustee Board must always act in the best interests of Surrey Care Trust, exercising the same standard of duty of care that a prudent person would apply if looking after the affairs of someone for whom they have responsibility.

They must:

- Ensure Surrey Care Trust complies with its governing document, charity law, company law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Ensure that Surrey Care Trust pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- Ensure Surrey Care Trust applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects e.g. The Trust must not spend money on activities that are not included in the charitable objectives, however worthwhile they may be
- Contribute by giving firm strategic direction, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets, and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Safeguard the good name and values of Surrey Care Trust
- Ensure the financial stability of Surrey Care Trust





# Surrey Care Trust

## Trustees

Each Trustee has agreed to the Nolan Principles, or the Seven Principles of Public Life: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, and Leadership.

Additionally, all Trustees:

- Are committed to the vision and mission of Surrey Care Trust
- Have strategic vision
- Have good, independent judgment
- Have the ability to think creatively
- Are willing to speak their mind
- Have an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of trusteeship
- Have an ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of Surrey Care Trust
- A willingness to meet the minimum time requirement



# Surrey Care Trust Trustees



To be continually effective, the Board of Trustees collectively needs skills and experience in the following areas:

- Addressing social exclusion
- Charity/business management
- Education, skills & training, youth work
- Organisational Infrastructure (HR management, Premises and IT, Financial management)
- Fundraising and marketing, including social media
- UK law
- Business and Enterprise
- Lived experience of the issues and challenges our beneficiaries face, including those from minoritised groups





## What we ask, What we give

Trustees are expected to attend all Board meetings, (approximately six per year), held during normal office hours, usually at our Astolat premises or via Microsoft Teams.

Meetings typically last up to two hours, with one longer full day session focussed on strategic planning.

We aim to circulate papers a week in advance of scheduled meetings.

Trustees are encouraged to engage with specific task groups within programmes, and to attend fundraising or other networking events. Trustees review their personal contributions at each board meeting.

Trustees can claim any expenses incurred in travelling to meetings.

In return we provide:

- The opportunity to put Trustee's skills and experience to use in a different context and to make a difference to people's lives
- A full induction programme to enable new Trustees to apply their skills effectively
- A chance to learn and grow, including developing strategic skills
- The full support of the Trust's Executive Team
- A chance to give back to the community, where you can see the difference

# Kari's Story

“ Rather selfishly, I enjoy being part of the work the Trust does. ”

*I first became aware of the Trust when our company became involved and then supported for some years. When I left I wanted to stay involved because I like what they do. It's not glamorous or sexy – but a key thing that hit me was that – to be poor or off the rails in Surrey is really hard. I also liked the size of the Charity – and the professional way it was managed.*

*Now that I'm working at the Stanwell Family Centre I feel that I can be a representative of the team on the Board – and also be a listening ear. It is helpful to have both hats i.e. a volunteer at the Centre and a Trustee so I understand what's going on at the top.*

*I like telling people about what the Trust does – hoping to get them interested as well. I like the work of the Mentoring Project because I am speaking to so many people with mental health issues and the majority seem to just need someone to talk to; someone who will listen and who will care about them.*

*The Trust is flexible and has gone down different routes to meet the changing needs of people in the area. The staff are such special people – all of them, and I so admire their commitment to the Trust. It's not as though they do it for the money!*





# Surrey Care Trust

To find out more about Surrey Care Trust, our work  
and our impact visit

[surreycaretrust.org.uk](https://www.surreycaretrust.org.uk)



For more information about our Trustees and to  
arrange an initial conversation please contact

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Together, we are breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage  
in Surrey.

## Surrey Care Trust

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[www.surreycaretrust.org.uk](https://www.surreycaretrust.org.uk)