

# Trustee

## Recruitment Pack

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**The Winchester Beacon**  
20B Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RZ  
01962 862050  
[www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk](http://www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk)

Charity number 1080443



# Welcome from our Chair of Trustees

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**On behalf of the board of directors of The Winchester Beacon, I would like to thank you for your interest in the role of trustee.**

The Winchester Beacon aims to provide hope, dignity and practical support to people experiencing homelessness and social exclusion in our community. Our work is rooted in compassion and a deep commitment to enabling people to rebuild their lives. As a trustee, you would play a vital role in helping us sustain and strengthen this mission.

Trustees at The Winchester Beacon are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the charity, ensuring strong governance and financial stewardship and supporting the staff and volunteer team to deliver high-quality services.

We are seeking individuals who share our values and who can bring a diversity of skills and perspectives to our board. We value integrity, good judgement and a genuine commitment to our cause.

Becoming a trustee is both a serious responsibility and a deeply rewarding opportunity. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for considering giving your time and expertise to support vulnerable people to move forward positively.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Hemmings  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

## Contents

**Page 2: Our History**

**Page 3: Our Vision, Mission and Values**

**Page 4: How we help**

**Page 6: Job description**

# Our History

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The Winchester Beacon (TWB) is the operating name of Winchester Churches Nightshelter (WCNS) which was set up in 1988 by Churches Together in Winchester. Run by voluntary effort, the charity group used various buildings around the city, including church halls and temporarily vacant properties.

In 1995, we became an independent registered charity moving into our dedicated premises on Jewry Street in central Winchester in 1997. The building, which was owned by Hampshire County Council, has been used as a Victorian gas-works, a Burberry factory, a bakery, a co-operative dairy, a printing works and finally a library store. The Winchester and District Housing Association agreed to develop the site, in a joint venture, to provide a shelter for the homeless on the ground floor and ten low cost studio flats above. The Nightshelter was officially opened on the 14 September 1997 by local Baptist minister, Rev Paul Hills.

We now also manage three offsite properties which together accommodate an additional twelve people. These four-bedroom houses act as a stepping stone to independent living. All of our twenty-two residents are able to benefit from personalised wraparound support to enable them to rebuild their lives.

During the pandemic we adapted our services to ensure that we could stay open. This involved moving to single bedrooms to reduce shared airspace and extending our opening hours so that our residents could 'stay home' during lockdown. These changes lived on beyond the pandemic after we saw the positive impact they had on our residents. It was at this point that we changed our operating name to The Winchester Beacon as we had become so much more than a nightshelter.

The Winchester Beacon is the operating name of Winchester Churches Nightshelter, a company limited by guarantee.

Registered Company number 03928334  
Registered Charity number 1080443  
Registered office: 20B Jewry Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8RZ

# Our Vision, Mission & Values

**Vision: To transform lives, inspire hope and end homelessness.**

**Mission: To help break the cycle of homelessness by enabling people to rebuild their lives.**



## **Honest and open**

We treat everyone with kindness and respect, without prejudice or discrimination.



## **Safe and supportive**

We provide a home where residents can be comfortable and safe and can find the help and restoration of self-esteem they need.



## **Flexible and caring**

We foster collaboration to work as a team with residents, staff, volunteers, the local community and other agencies / partners.

# How we Help

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Each of our residents is able to benefit from one-to-one personalised support. Their Support Worker works alongside them to establish issues at a root of, and as a result of, their homelessness. Together, they identify the areas that they need support to help them to meet their goals and rebuild a life away from homelessness.

## Residents can access:

- Free counselling and psychotherapy
- Budgeting advice
- Help with substance misuse
- Tenancy and housing support
- Help to find training and employment
- Life coaching
- Ongoing support when they transition to independent living.

## Free activities for residents include:

- Gym pass to local leisure centre
- Boxing classes
- Guided cycling club
- Cookery club
- Haircuts.

## Larry's Story

Larry, 66, became homeless after his mother passed away. They had been living together in the council house that had been their family home for over 40 years. Originally in Larry's father's name, when he passed away the tenancy moved to his mother. This meant that legally the house could not be passed on again and so Larry was instructed to leave.

"George, my Support Worker at The Beacon, helped me sort out my pension. I knew it was there but I couldn't access it, I didn't know much about the internet so George helped me.

I've moved into my own one-bedroom flat. The Winchester Beacon helped me apply for it and also sorted out furniture and a cooker for me so that I start with what I need.

Having now experienced homelessness, I value having a space in the world even more than I did before. It's easy to worry about how I'll cope living on my own but I'm going to take it as it comes and I know I still have the support of The Winchester Beacon."

# Trustee

## Role Description

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**Trustees are volunteer members of the charity's board, collectively responsible for the governance, strategic leadership and oversight of The Winchester Beacon. Trustees help to ensure the charity delivers on our mission, operates within legal and regulatory frameworks and remains financially sustainable. This role offers a meaningful opportunity to support an impactful local charity and contribute to positive change in the community.**

### **As a trustee of The Winchester Beacon, you will:**

#### **Governance and Legal Responsibilities**

- Ensure The Winchester Beacon operates in line with our governing documents and complies with charity law and company law duties.
- Act in the best interests of the charity, exercising independent judgment, integrity and proper care in decision-making.
- Safeguard the reputation, values and assets of the charity.

#### **Strategic Leadership**

- Contribute to setting and safeguarding The Winchester Beacon's vision, mission and long-term strategy.
- Help develop and approve strategic plans, objectives and performance goals.
- Support the board in reviewing progress and impact against agreed targets.

#### **Financial Stewardship**

- Oversee the charity's financial planning and sustainability.
- Approve budgets and monitor financial performance.
- Ensure resources are used responsibly to further the charity's goals.

#### **Oversight and Risk Management**

- Ensure systems are in place for effective risk management and compliance including safeguarding.
- Monitor and challenge operational performance where appropriate.

#### **Support and Engagement**

- Build strong working relationships with fellow trustees, the CEO and senior staff.
- Act as an ambassador for the charity with stakeholders, funders, local partners and supporters.
- Bring your skills, experience and networks to support organisational growth and impact.

### **Person Specification**

We are looking for candidates who:

- Are passionate about ending homelessness and supporting vulnerable people.
- Are able to think strategically and contribute constructively in board discussions.
- Have relevant experience in areas such as governance, finance, law, HR, fundraising, risk management, communications, housing, health and social care, or community services (preferred but not essential).
- Are willing to actively contribute and commit time to board responsibilities including preparing for meetings.
- Ability to foster good practice in volunteers.
- Excellent communication skills with staff and volunteers as well as fellow trustees.
- An understanding of the importance of collaboration and problem-solving.
- Confident and proficient in the use of MS Office 365 applications
- Commitment to attend board meetings regularly, at least every 6 weeks and volunteer for other sub-committees as appropriate.
- Able to devote around 2-3 hours per week on preparing for meetings and answering queries from operational teams and the wider board.

Terms of Appointment

- This is a voluntary and unpaid role (reasonable expenses may be reimbursed).

## **How to apply**

Please send your CV and a brief email explaining your interest in joining our charity in this role to [ceo@winchesterbeacon.org.uk](mailto:ceo@winchesterbeacon.org.uk). We will be shortlisting candidates on a rolling basis so early application is recommended.