



Join Forest Farm Peace Garden as a trustee and make a difference in your community.

About Forest Farm Peace Garden

Forest Farm Peace Garden is a unique mental health and environment project. Our garden in Hainault is an oasis of beauty and tranquillity offering an inspiring and welcoming space for people to connect with nature and meet other people.

We run an ecotherapy programme, involving activities in nature, to support people with mental health recovery. We also run workshops, events and volunteering for the wider community.

Activities in our garden include gardening and food growing, caring for our large fruit orchard, growing medicinal plants, caring for wildlife, woodwork and arts and crafts.

The Trustee Role

Charity trustees are the people who share ultimate responsibility for governing a charity and directing how it is managed and run. Being a trustee carries a lot of responsibility – it means making decisions that will impact on people's lives. It is also incredibly rewarding: you will be making a difference to those experiencing mental health support needs, adults with learning disabilities, and refugee and asylum seekers.

You can read more about the role of the charity trustee and your duties and responsibilities on the [Charity Commission website](#).

What you can expect from us

Our Trustees tell us that they love making a real difference through applying their skills and networks to support and develop our work. You'll have the opportunity to contribute to a growing charity at a time of change and consolidation.

You don't need to have previous experience as a trustee to apply. We have a trustee induction process, and we will provide access to training and a trustee buddy to support you.

You will have the opportunity to apply your skills and experience, as well as develop new skills and knowledge of the charity sector through participating in the work of our Board and Committees. Our Board meets bi-monthly, with Committee meetings scheduled additionally. Board meetings are currently held virtually although we do plan to return to scheduling some of these face-to-face.

Trustee positions are unpaid, but we don't expect trustees to be out of pocket for carrying out their role, so reasonable expenses can be claimed back.

What we are looking for

In addition to the core trustee role description, there are some specific roles, skills and experience that we are particularly looking for to strengthen on our Board:

- Chair of Trustees, with the skills and capabilities to lead the Board and work effectively with the FFPG Director
- Treasurer, with knowledge and experience of charity financial management and statutory reporting including SORP

- Company Secretary, with the organisational and administrative skills needed to ensure effective governance and committee procedures.
- Experience in the field of mental health or the voluntary sector.
- Current experience in key functional areas such as marketing, fundraising, HR would also be beneficial.

Additionally, we want to ensure that our Board better reflects the local community where our work is situated, so we particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and Minoritised ethnic communities, people with disabilities, and people with lived experience of mental health conditions .

Above all, you'll need to be able to give the time, commitment and energy to the role that we need as a growing charity. We have a small staff team, and trustees need to be actively involved and work closely with the management and staff team, whilst respecting the boundaries of their governance role.

How to apply

Submit your CV with a 1-2 page cover letter outlining what excites you about being an FFPG trustee, and what you think you can bring to the role, to Karen Smallwood karen@forestfarmpeacegarden.org

Please also let us know if there are any reasonable adjustments we can make to the recruitment process.

Applications close on 31 December 2023. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview with the Chair and another Trustee, and will have the opportunity to meet with the staff team.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role and FFPG, please contact Thomas Blackburn: thomas@forestfarmpeacegarden.org