

# COMPASSION ACTS

## **VOLUNTEER TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT INFORMATION PACK**

Would you like to make a difference in your local community and help shape the work of Compassion Acts?

Do you have a passion for supporting vulnerable people and eliminating poverty? Could you volunteer your skills at a strategic level?

Compassion Acts is a local Christian charity anti-poverty charity. It is dynamic and growing, responding to needs within our local community. Inspired by Christian values it works to serve and support local people and address the root causes of poverty. With 180 volunteers and 12 paid staff, it provides a range of programmes both preventative and responsive to crisis.

### **Trustee Role:**

Trustees are volunteers who serve our local communities, those in need, local churches, volunteers, and staff. We do this by committing to the mission, supporting and enabling the work, making strategic decisions and celebrating the achievements of the organisation.

### **What's involved:**

The role is for 3 years in the first instance, with the option for renewal. As well as attending Board meetings 6 times a year, you will use your expertise and skills to work with the management team to guide in specific aspects of development. We invite interest from all and would particularly welcome experience in Business, Strategic Planning, Human Resources, social marketing and building management to balance the skills of current trustees.

To find out more or express an interest visit [www.compassionacts.uk/volunteer](http://www.compassionacts.uk/volunteer).

For an informal discussion contact Dympna Edwards chair of trustees on 07722 014530 or Richard Owens Chief Executive on 01704 264505.

**Closing date Sunday 12th February 2023**

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## About Compassion Acts Trust

### Our Vision:

We want to see poverty reduced and social wellbeing increased in Southport and surrounding communities.

### Our Mission:

To bring people together from the local neighbourhoods, uniting them with the resources and passion of local churches and other organisations for projects and interventions, which achieve real enhancements in the social wellbeing of families and individuals.

### Our Activities:

At Compassion Acts our 180+ volunteers supported by a team of 12 staff members provide food, support through a number of programmes including 7 food banks, 5 food pantries, a long-term next steps programme & community market, 2 warm space hubs, financial and debt advice to over 1000 people per year. All of this helps people through difficult financial and personal times. These services along with family engagement and partnerships help to prevent poverty and the need for foodbanks.

### Our Values:

- **Respect** because in the end we are about 'Love', and people, (service users, staff and volunteers) deserve to be treated well and fairly.
- **Unity** because bringing people of all backgrounds together is what we do, community and churches delivering far more together than apart.
- **Hope** because it is our experience that people do grow, change and feel empowered for a brighter future -if there is real engagement.
- **Action** because our positive beliefs and thoughts are only useful to other people, if we act on them.

As a Christian charity, we place ourselves at the service of all people. As Jesus did, we recognise the dignity and worth of every individual. We welcome supporters, volunteers, and clients from all faiths and none.

### History

Compassion Acts was formed in 2016 from a merger of Southport Food Bank and the Southport CAP Debt centre. Since then, the organisation has grown and developed rapidly and last year provided 7 foodbanks, 5 food pantries, support to families through after school clubs, holiday clubs. The financial advice and support service supports over 1,000 people to become more financially sustainable, reducing the need for the foodbank. As a Trussell Trust Pathfinder organisation we have a focus on going upstream to prevent poverty, rather than purely treating the symptoms.

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## Our Team

We have over 180 volunteers in a variety of roles supported by a Chief Executive and team of 12 staff (approximately 8 full-time equivalent). One of the volunteer roles is that of a trustee.

## Role of Trustee:

The board of trustees have collective responsibility for the governance of the organisation and for all decisions made by the Board. They set the strategic direction for the organisation, ensuring alignment to our values, and are responsible for setting organisational policy, defining goals, agreeing the financial plan, evaluating performance, and ensuring that strong relationships are maintained between the Trustees, managers, staff, volunteers, clients and our local community.

Trustees are the stewards and guardians of our mission. We serve our local communities, those in need, local churches, volunteers and staff. We do this by:

- **Committing** to our mission, seeking to understand and walking with those who are in most need in our community.
- **Supporting and enabling** the extraordinary work of our 180+ volunteers and 12 staff who serve the most vulnerable members of our community every day. With the right strategy, resources and leadership they can – and will – change the world.
- **Reflecting** deeply on the decisions we are called to make, listening with humility to the voices of those whose insights can enrich our own, and ensuring that we are always acting in alignment with the organisation's values.
- **Celebrating** the steady progress we're making towards a society where people have what they need, and are supported on life's journey.

## Is this for me?

Do you have a passion for the work that we do and a desire to contribute to the local community? Do you share our fundamental values, vision and mission and respect our roots in the wider Church community, whether you are a person of faith or not?

Do you have good interpersonal, communication and networking skills and motivation to work as part of a team?

Do you have an understanding of our local community and some understanding of the role and governance responsibilities of a Trustee in a charity? If you are familiar with our services and committed to making a difference that would be an advantage.

If you can answer yes to most of these questions, we want to hear from you. We are keen to increase the diversity of the board and invite interest from under-represented groups. Training and support will be given in the role. New trustees will be subject to a probationary period of six months. This is a voluntary role and therefore unremunerated, although expenses will be reimbursed for costs incurred in line with our constitution.

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## **What is the commitment as a trustee?**

The board of trustees meet 6 times per year for 90 minutes at a time to suit the trustees. There may also be some meetings with staff outside of these board meetings. Most of the board are recruited from the local churches and community. Trustees are appointed for a period of 3 years subject to a probationary period of 6 months. After 3 years Trustees can opt to stand down or be reappointed. This enables the board to get a balance of new ideas and trustees whilst retaining organisational memory.

Each Trustee takes a lead to support a specific area of work (e.g. finance, HR, staff engagement, community, safeguarding.) We would specifically welcome Trustees with a background in business, HR, strategic planning and digital marketing facilities and who have lived experience of hardship.