

## Trustee Recruitment Pack

Would you like to volunteer your expertise and knowledge while supporting a well-established, local charity providing high-quality mental health and wellbeing support to the young people in your community?

*This is an unpaid position requiring a contribution of approximately 7 days a year.*

### ABOUT BRANDON CENTRE

Brandon Centre has been a trailblazer in adolescent mental health services for over 50 years. Today, we're a well-known and much-appreciated source of support for many young people in and around North London.

Based in a welcoming Georgian house - donated to us by Brandon Cadbury - in the heart of Kentish Town, we offer all young people a safe and non-judgmental place to access counselling, psychotherapy and coaching.

We also offer family support services and work in the community with youth hubs and other local organisations including Arsenal in the Community, University College London, Islington Giving, HandsOn London, Primary Care and local schools and colleges.

Now, more than ever, young people need our support. With 75% of lifetime mental illness first experienced before age 20, we offer critical support at a critical time.

As the organisation grows, we want to support more young people, in particular those who have been historically more difficult to reach.

### TRUSTEE PROFILE

We are expanding Brandon Centre's Board of Trustees to support the organisation's strategy for growth. We are particularly interested in hearing from **people living locally** (North London) who are **representative of our diverse local community**.

We are recruiting five trustees with the following specialisms. Individual trustee role profiles are included separately in this pack.

- Fundraising Trustee
- Honorary Treasurer Trustee
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Trustee
- Clinical Trustees (x2)

This is an exciting time to join Brandon Centre. We believe all young people should have access to the highest quality care & support and you will have the opportunity to work alongside a team of experienced and enthusiastic Trustees helping us to achieve this.

### ABOUT YOU

You'll identify with our values of compassion, respect and inclusion and be comfortable collaborating with fellow board members.

You'll be able to listen to, digest and scrutinise information from across the organisation and its teams, and be able to support and challenge the organisation in equal measure.

You might have a particular interest in, or lived experience of, mental health and wellbeing, expertise in fundraising or marketing, or simply a drive to give our young people the best possible future.

We are a warm and welcoming organisation and we're open to applications from people of any background, age, or level of education.

#### THE BRANDON CENTRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We currently have eight Trustees with our existing Treasurer due to step down at the end of July. We will be recruiting a further five new Trustees which will take the total number to 12. Trustees meet regularly at our quarterly Board and each Trustee supports one of our Committees; Finance, Quality Safety & Risk, Business Development & Fundraising, and People. Trustees support Brandon Centre between meetings where possible. The Board also meets twice a year at Board Away Days which allow time for reflection and planning.

It's important to us that our Board represents the diverse communities in which we work and is able to contribute a range of different skills and experiences.

You can read more about our current Trustees and Senior Leadership Team here: <https://brandon-centre.org.uk/the-board-senior-team>

#### BENEFITS OF BEING A TRUSTEE

We hope you'll enjoy sharing your expertise and knowledge with our diverse and committed team of Trustees. We are a well-run, open and inclusive organisation and you'll always know what's expected of you, and by when. There's no such thing as a silly question.

As a Brandon Centre Trustee, you'll be able to:

- contribute to a well-respected organisation working hard to improve the mental health of the young people in our local community;
- help ensure that all young people have access to high-quality mental health support;
- build career-enhancing skills and experience in the charity healthcare sector; and
- build your professional network.

#### TRUSTEE DUTIES

The Board of Trustees approves and safeguards the charity's strategy, must always act in the best interests of Brandon Centre, and must act as a group and not as individuals.

Brandon Centre's Senior Leadership Team is on hand to support the Board's decision-making by providing papers before each meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team will always be available to answer any questions that you might have.

Your overarching duties will be to ensure that Brandon Centre:

- complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations;
- pursues its objects as defined in its governing document; and
- applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects;

As a Trustee you will:

- contribute actively to the Board of Trustees by giving sound strategic direction;
- together with the leadership team, set overall policy, define goals and targets, and evaluate performance;
- ensure the financial stability and sustainability of Brandon Centre;
- safeguard the good name and values of Brandon Centre; and
- monitor the performance of the CEO and if necessary, appoint a new CEO.

We encourage Trustees to use any specific skills, knowledge, or experience to help the Board reach sound decisions. This may involve leading discussions, identifying key issues, providing guidance on new initiatives, evaluating recommendations from other parties, or offering advice on any area in which the Trustee has a particular expertise.

#### MARK BLAND, BRANDON CENTRE CHAIR

Mark has been a Brandon Centre Trustee since 2019 and our Chair since 2021. He has worked in education for over 20 years, including 10 years as a Headteacher at a North London Secondary School. He's also worked on a number of local authority Boards in the areas of special needs, school finance and social mobility. Mark has a deep understanding of the social issues and challenges facing young people today.

#### JULIA BROWN, BRANDON CENTRE CEO

Julia has been Brandon Centre's CEO since 2019. Her background in healthcare management and commissioning, together with her hands-on experience as Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor means Julia is as comfortable with the day-to-day operations at Brandon Centre as she is giving strategic direction. Julia is herself a Trustee and School Governor and is also a qualified Executive and Therapeutic Wellbeing Coach.

#### BRANDON CENTRE CORE SERVICES

- Psychotherapy, counselling and coaching for young people aged between 12 and 25.
- Systemic Integrative Therapy for families of young people dealing with complex problems.
- Parent support workshops offering specialist adolescent parenting support and advice.
- Training and consultancy services for professionals.
- Social Prescribing.
- Community Outreach Programmes.

More information about each of these services can be found in our brochure [here](#).

#### OUR APPROACH

We combine clinical excellence and evidence-based interventions with a genuine grassroots ethos that puts the young person at the heart of everything we do.

Our systemic approach, working with families, communities and professional networks around the young person mean we can support them holistically with their long-term health and wellbeing.

We actively seek the opinions of the young people we work with through our Young People's Leadership Board, our team of Young Ambassadors and our Parent Advisory Committee.

#### OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our five main strategic objectives for the next three to four years are:

1. Continue to develop a compassionate, inspiring and thriving environment for young people and families, our employees and volunteers.
2. In partnership with other community organisations, strengthen and grow our specialist adolescent services which improve and maintain the health, wellbeing, and independence of young people and families.
3. Ensure financial and governance sustainability with the capacity to grow our impact.
4. Further develop equity, inclusion and opportunity in our ways of thinking and ways of working.
5. Increase awareness and reach of our services through effective communications and marketing.

#### USEFUL LINKS

About Brandon Centre: <https://brandon-centre.org.uk/about-us>

Our history: <https://brandon-centre.org.uk/our-history>

The team: <https://brandon-centre.org.uk/the-board-senior-team>

Brandon Centre Brochure: <https://brandon-centre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/brandon-centre-brochure-2022.pdf>

#### WORDS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

*“Working with my therapist was so life-changing, I couldn’t appreciate them or Brandon Centre’s services more.”*

*“I’ve done therapy for many years and never found someone that made me feel as comfortable with myself and therefore able to explore my feelings with.”*

*“Thank you so much; this group has given me vital knowledge, tools, skills and hope to deal with challenges in teenage behaviours.”*

*“I would recommend this group to any parents who are struggling with their child’s eating or any other behaviour.”*

*“The intervention has resulted in such a massive transformation, it’s extraordinary. I don’t know how to express enough gratitude.”*

#### WORDS FROM OUR CURRENT TRUSTEES

*“As an organisation, it cuts above its weight, and has a history, profile and reach that’s impressive.”* Lucy Moore, Trustee

*“Brandon Centre is already doing so many things right, and I want to help showcase and shout about all the great work that’s being done.”* Joanna Stronach, Trustee

*“Brandon Centre is in a good position, both financially and with the team we’ve put in place. But we can’t sit still. We’ve got a rich history of innovation and a long-established reputation for working*

*within the community and I'm excited about looking at ways to strengthen that work in a way that meets the community's needs,"* Mark Bland, Chair of Trustees

#### NEXT STEPS

If you are interested in applying for one of our Trustee positions simply email a cover letter and your CV to Emma Saunders, our Head of People: [Emmasaunders@brandoncentre.org.uk](mailto:Emmasaunders@brandoncentre.org.uk)

If we're able to take your application forward, the next step will be an informal discussion with our Chief Executive, Julia Brown, followed by a meeting with some of our current Board members.

[www.brandoncentre.org.uk](http://www.brandoncentre.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 290118

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