

Trustee Recruitment

Community First is looking for two new Trustees to join our Board and help us support growth, innovation and development. We are committed to equal opportunities and we are looking for Trustees with a variety of different skills, life experience and backgrounds. We are particularly interested in applications from people with business or Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector experience.

We have created an information pack which is included with this briefing document. It can also be accessed online using the link:

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Trustee-Information-Pack-2024.pdf>

To apply, please send a CV and a short statement addressing the person specification in the briefing pack to Nicky Theobald (ntheobald@communityfirst.org.uk)

The deadline for applications is 1st March 2024.

New Service User Engagement Service

In January 2024 the new Service User Engagement Service led by Community First started. Working alongside our partners:

- Wiltshire Service Users Network
- Wessex Community Action
- Age UK Wiltshire
- Alzheimer's Support
- Celebrating Age

The new service unifies the collective strengths of its partners to support the voice and engagement of people in Wiltshire.

Working in conjunction with Wiltshire Council and the BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) we will be engaging with people living and working in Wiltshire to co-produce, co-design and co-develop health and social care services in Wiltshire.

We will be working alongside people with physical disabilities, sensory needs, mental health conditions, learning disabilities, neurodiversity, long term conditions, complex needs, older people and dementia. Empowering and facilitating them to have their say and get involved in shaping how health and social care services work for them now and in the future.

We will be using various consultation and engagement methods that will range from in person conversations to online interactions whilst also embracing new technologies. We will ensure that we use a wide variety of approaches so that we are able to reach and engage with a population with varying and diverse needs. Through exploring innovative approaches to engagement, we will aim to encourage participation in co-production amongst the population of Wiltshire.

Alongside, we will also be offering training and capacity-building opportunities to Commissioners to enhance their understanding of co-production principles and practices.

For more information email enquiries@communityfirst.org.uk

Oxenwood 2024 Activity Programme

2024 marks an exciting time of development for Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre with a new website launching in the next few months.

Oxenwood is the perfect setting for school, club and group residentials or day trips. We offer a bespoke package of curriculum enrichment days, outdoor learning and adventure activities, led by our friendly and experienced outdoor education instructors.

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre is a heritage building located in an area of outstanding natural beauty near Marlborough, Wiltshire. During your stay, your group will have exclusive use of the Centre and access to variety of exciting activities including climbing, rifle shooting, archery, hiking, canoeing and mountain biking.

We have produced a 2024 activity programme for Oxenwood which outlines all of the fantastic opportunities for learning and adventure at the Centre. A copy of the 2024 activity programme is included with this briefing pack.

For more information or to book your activity or residential email: enquiries@oxenwoodcentre.com

Community-Led Housing Project

Community First is working alongside Wiltshire Community Land Trust and other stakeholders to re-launch the Community-Led Housing Project for Wiltshire. The Homes of Our Own project will be re-launched in 2024. The project aims to work with local councils, voluntary groups and members of the community who are interested in supporting the provision of Community-Led Housing in their local area.

We are currently developing a community survey to help shape the offer of support. More information about the Community-Led Housing Project will be shared as the project develops.

Regulation 14 Consultation

Community First has seen an increase in demand for support with Regulation 14 Consultation as it relates to Neighbourhood Planning. We have worked with a number of Councils, Steering Groups and Planning Consultants to create, monitor and deliver public consultation surveys and produce a report with tabulated comments from members of the public. We can work with you if you are refreshing an existing Plan or creating a new Plan.

For more information and a free, no obligation quotation, please contact Harry Tipple: htipple@communityfirst.org.uk.

Splash Annual Report

Splash forms part of our Youth Action Wiltshire service and offers a free-to-access programme of support and positive activities for young people facing challenges in their lives. We have produced a report for the Splash service in 2023 which can be accessed via our website:

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Splash-Annual-Report-2023.pdf>

Building Bridges and Inspire Swindon Programmes

Community First now has three programmes which offer a holistic service that provides personalised support to people with significant barriers and challenges to help them build their independence and move towards education and employment outcomes.

Building Bridges Wiltshire

Support for people aged 16+ in Wiltshire.

The programme supports people aged 16+ (no upper age limit) who want to move towards sustained education or employment goals. If you are under 18, you will need to be Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET to take part.

Funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund via Wiltshire Council through to the end of March 2025

Building Bridges Swindon

Support for people aged 18+ in Swindon.

The programme supports people aged 18+ (no upper age limit) who want to move towards sustained education or employment goals.

Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund through to the end of 2025.

Inspire Swindon

Support for people aged 15-18 in Swindon.

We can work with you if you are aged 15-18 and at risk of becoming NEET, are NEET or are engaging with Swindon Youth Justice Service. We can work with you if you are aged 19-25, if you are care experienced or have an EHCP.

Please note all referrals to this service are managed in conjunction with the Swindon Borough Council Education, Employment & Training Team and is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via Swindon Borough Council through to the end of March 2025.

People can refer themselves to the programme or make a referral on behalf of someone else they are supporting (with their permission), by completing the form at: www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk

Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

eewing@communityfirst.org.uk