

Board members at The Spinal Injuries Association

Thank you for your interest in joining the SIA Board of Trustees. We are a growing national charity with big ambitions, and this role – and your contribution – is a vital non-executive post in helping us achieve our ambitions.

About Spinal Injuries Association

We are the UK's leading user-led charity supporting people who sustain damage to the spinal cord. We are a passionate organisation with a 45-year track record of meeting the needs of spinal cord injured people. We support people and their families and friends in the immediate aftermath of injury, during their rehabilitation and at any time afterwards.

Our **vision** is a fulfilled life for everyone affected by spinal cord injury.

Our **mission** is to support all those affected by spinal cord injury by advising, educating and campaigning on their behalf.

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone living with a spinal cord injury. We have redeployed our operational teams – Support Network Officers, SCI Nurse Specialists and Caseworkers – greatly expanded our Support Line and are now delivering many of our services in new and different ways. Our work has doubled as we have worked to ensure that no one with SCI is left to face Coronavirus alone.

Our Trustee Board

Our Trustee Board is a crucial part of our organisation, and their leadership is more important than ever this year as we navigate these challenges. Our Board consists of up to 15 Trustees, nine of whom are directly elected by the Association's membership, and six who are independently appointed (co-opted) for their skills and/or experience. Our aim is to have a balanced Board membership which truly reflects our constituents, values, aims, ethos, and the wider community - after all, SCI can and does happen to anyone!

Our Trustee Board is the ultimate governance body for SIA, being responsible for our operations, finances, and strategy. Our trustees provide strategic direction and ensure that we have appropriate financial and legal checks and balances in place. They also represent SIA externally, assisting in raising our profile and help to build relationships with key stakeholders.

Trustee Elections

There are three places now available for election.

The successful candidates will be required to prepare for and attend quarterly meetings of the Trustee Board and the organisation's Annual General Meeting. Board members will be expected to join one of the Board's sub-committees as well, for which there will normally be four meetings a year.

The Board of Trustees has a range of statutory duties and other responsibilities as set out in the description below.

The role is voluntary and therefore unremunerated; however, all approved expenses incurred whilst on SIA business will be reimbursed. It is your skills and time that we need.

We are looking for innovative, collaborative, passionate and committed people to join our Board and we strongly encourage candidates from **all** backgrounds to apply.

To be eligible to stand for election you must be a full member of SIA with lived experience of a spinal cord injury. We encourage applications from women and people from diverse backgrounds since they are currently under-represented on our Board.

We are also very keen to encourage applicants with experience/ skills/ knowledge around the following areas:

1.A rights based campaigning background:

- broader than SCI e.g. disability rights campaigning (national or international);
- understanding the strategy and tactics behind building movements/ public interest;
- experience in coalition building;
- Advocacy/policy change and politics-influence experience;
- Connections for influence.

2.Network Building:

- Creating coalitions;
- Creating 'hooks and ins' for organisations to join;
- Platform/ learning building.

3.Digital engagement:

- Technical side of building single digital space & back end CRMs;
- Creative side of creating front face/ user side platform for use by multiple organisations/ individuals;
- Any skills connecting into 1 and 2 above.

4.Leadership/ change/ governance:

- Modern governance for Not For Profits (NFPs) and Charities;
- Exec-level and Chair leadership experience of NFPs and/or Charities;
- Evidence of skills in growing charities/ NFP

As an elected Trustee, you will be appointed for a 3-year term initially, but you can stand for election again at the end of your term of service to a maximum of 9 years. All Board members have equal representation and voting rights.

Nomination Process

To stand for this challenging but rewarding role just [click here](#) to apply.

Note that your statement (which will be published alongside the ballot paper) should not exceed 300 words and include:

- Why you are interested in becoming a member of the SIA Board of Trustees;
- What experience of collective leadership you have (either as a board member, or otherwise);

- How you would you ensure that SIA secures new opportunities to promote and support its work;
- How your values align with SIA;
- A brief summary of the personal skills and strengths you would bring to the role.

If you feel you can make a difference, please put yourself forward. We look forward to hearing from you .

*Please submit the web form to arrive no later than **Monday 14th September 2020***

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