

## Volunteer Role: Charity Trustee

36 month term



### Join the Board of a fast-growing children's book charity

The Children's Book Project is a rapidly growing charity (constituted in April 2019) set up to tackle book poverty nationwide and to improve the social, emotional and educational outcomes of children and young people across the UK.

The charity is primarily volunteer-powered, and its team is proud of the significant impact it has had since formation on its core audiences – children and volunteers. Its one millionth book was gifted in June 2023 and a further 350k books will be gifted this academic year to targeted babies, children and young people across the UK. We won a prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2020. Last year over 12,000 volunteering hours were given by local, corporate and young Duke of Edinburgh award volunteers.

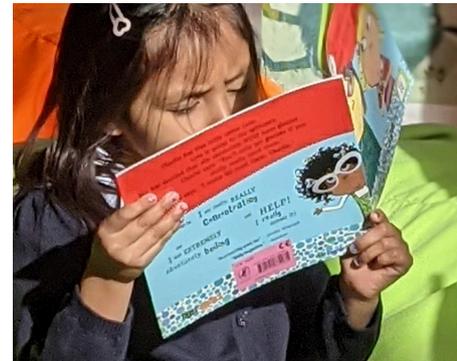
One of our trustees is coming to the end of their term, having helped launch and shape the charity, and we are forever grateful for their invaluable support, enthusiasm and guidance during this key phase. We have also amended our Charitable Constitution to allow another Trustee to join our dynamic and committed board. As a result of this timing, we are now seeking two new Trustees to join us.

### About us

OECD research has shown that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's life outcomes, more than their family circumstance or parents' educational background or income. Being read to, sharing a book with an adult or reading independently helps children to develop socially and emotionally, offers escapism and a chance to become immersed in new worlds. It is this immersion in books that drives a child's literacy development, their confidence in themselves as a reader and invites them to see the world differently.

Sadly, against a backdrop of widespread library closures and increasing public hardship, hundreds of thousands of children live in homes with very few books of their own, and sometimes none. By age 11, those from book-poor homes are found to be 12 months behind their peers in terms of literacy and language development.

The Children's Book Project seeks to tackle book poverty and give every child across the UK the chance to choose and own their own books. From our Book HQ in W10 and two satellite operations in Birmingham and Leeds donated books are sent to targeted organisations (including schools, prisons, community groups and refuges), for them to put on inclusive and celebratory book gifting events. For many children, these may be the very first books they own and they have the power to transform the way that young people view both themselves and the world.



## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for two trustees to help shape internal conversations about our growth and direction of growth over the next few years. It is a time of exciting change. We have moved in 18 months from a wholly volunteer run model towards a partly staffed model, have committed to Regional HQs in Birmingham and Leeds, are diversifying our book donation sources to expand our capacity and are seeking to assess our impact on our many audiences in wider and more structured ways.

As we actively seek to increase the diversity of our trustee board, we welcome any candidate who can contribute diversity to the Board in its widest sense, including diversity of background, life experience and career. We know that different voices, ideas and perspectives will enable us to better tackle book poverty and deepen our impact. If you like the sound of this role but don't quite meet all of the criteria, we still encourage you to apply. We are very open to first time trustees joining the board.

We particularly encourage applications from candidates who have childhood or adult experience of life on a lower income, and from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), LGBT+, disabled and socially diverse candidates.

We are specifically looking for two trustees that share between them experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Marketing: someone with senior consumer or charity experience who can support us in articulating our positioning and core messaging. This may also be someone with corporate relationship management experience that might offer expertise, potentially acting as ambassador on our behalf.
- Any / all of the following: charity governance, finance, legal, operations, premises and HR.

With both appointments we are also conscious of finding one or two Chair designates, who might be happy to step into this role in due course.

Our new trustees will be strong communicators and relationship builders and will have a continuous improvement mindset. They will be passionate about what we do and the impact we have.

## What is the expected time commitment?

The time commitment for trustees includes attendance at three Board meetings per year, usually held outside normal working hours, and occasional ad hoc discussions/approvals throughout year. In addition, we encourage our trustees to get to know the organisation by spending a minimum of 2 days per year volunteering at one of our three locations (usually term time, within school hours), or an equivalent to suit your availability.

## How to apply or find out more

Please send your CV and a brief covering letter to the Chair of Trustees, Kath Sloggett, c/o [tracy@childrensbookproject.co.uk](mailto:tracy@childrensbookproject.co.uk). Closing date for applications is 20th May 2024. Please also contact Tracy if you have any informal questions about the role before applying.