

Join our Trustee Board



Our Movement

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest grass-roots movement in England and Wales working to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime, and support local initiatives to build stronger and better-connected communities. Schemes are run by local volunteers working within 42 Local Associations with Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) acting as the national umbrella charity for the movement. NWN comprises a small central support team, led by our CEO, overseen by a small board of volunteer trustees. 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the UK, and in that time the number of volunteers has grown to over 2 million people.

Our Board

Our voluntary trustee board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well run and is held accountable for -

- pursuing its charitable objectives and complying with its Constitution, charity law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- applying its resources wisely to achieve impact and value-for-money
- demonstrating its values and maintaining public confidence in its reputation
- working strategically by setting policy and defining goals and targets and measuring its impact.

The Board monitors the work of the CEO and acts as a “critical friend” through support and constructive challenge. The board holds 4 routine meetings each year, usually via video conference and lasting about 90 minutes. We also aim to hold one or two in-person meetings each year to discuss develop strategy and report to members. There are also board committees for more detailed work on Finance and Resources, and on People and Culture.

We are now looking to recruit new trustees to our board and we recognise that increasing the diversity of our board so that it better reflects the communities we serve will help us do a better job as a charity. We are therefore very keen to involve young people, people from the LGBTQ+ community, those with lived experience of disability or who have been victims of crime, as well as people from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds. We will support people for whom this would be their first trustee role to learn about the responsibilities of trusteeship. We are also aiming to strengthen our board in a number of functional areas (*see Knowledge and Experience section below*).

Personal characteristics

To become a trustee of NWN you need to be able to demonstrate that you -

- support the values and ethics of the NW movement and act with integrity, including handling sensitive and confidential information.
- are willing to learn about the work of the charity and the role of a trustee, and to commit the time needed for the role (on average about 8 hours a month)
- are able to read reports, analyse information and exercise good judgement and use of evidence in making decisions.
- will contribute to the board and committees by reading reports, attending regularly and participating in discussions by active listening and challenging constructively where necessary.

Knowledge and experience

You don't need to have specialist knowledge or experience to apply, but we are also keen to hear from people who can help us with fundraising and income generation, or who have experience of marketing and communications and can advise us on engaging with a broader and more diverse audience, including better use of social media. We are also seeking someone with knowledge of charity finance (or with general accounting knowledge who would be willing to learn about the charitable context). We would also like to have one trustee on our board with knowledge of policing and public safety in England and Wales and trends in policy development.

How to apply

To apply, please submit a short letter (up to two sides of A4) explaining your interest in becoming a trustee and what you could contribute to NWN, accompanied by your CV. These should be emailed to enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk by Sunday 12th June 2022. If you would like to have an informal discussion before applying please e-mail Kathleen Cunningham on enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk who will arrange a call with our Chair or Vice-Chair.

If your application is successful, we will need to check that you are eligible to be a trustee but provided you are over 16 years of age and have not been disqualified from acting as a company director or convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or deception, you will probably qualify.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ian Bretman (Chair of the Board) and John Hayward-Cripps (CEO)