

Which step is your next step?

If you would like to investigate board level roles within schools, charities or other public services, your call will be very welcome. If you know the type of body that interests you most, you can go to them directly. If you would rather speak to Getting on Board for more general advice that's fine too!

Appointments Commission

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Charity Commission

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School Governors' One-Stop Shop

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National Union of Students

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Getting on Board

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Are you ready to get on board?



We are all on board – is it time you were?

Five organisations – one vision

The Appointments Commission, Charity Commission, School Governors' One-Stop Shop, National Union of Students and Getting on Board share the vision of more diverse boards and improved governance in public bodies, charities and schools. We believe this will help to build a stronger society.

We are working in partnership to promote the concept of a career pathway to provide opportunities for you to develop a bank of relevant skills and expertise to allow progression through the range of public roles available.

So whether it is on the board of your local NHS, as a charity trustee or school governor, your public appointment will enrich your personal and professional life while you make a valuable contribution to your local community.

Are you ready to get on board?



Across the country hundreds of men and women use their professional and business skills as non-executive directors, offering just a few days per month to help to direct and lead their local NHS.

Making strategic decisions that directly affect local healthcare services, non-executive directors are responsible for ensuring that the interests of patients come first. These are rewarding and challenging roles which allow you to bring your professional expertise and experience into the boardroom while positively contributing to your community.

Alternatively, you may have the perfect level of skills and attributes needed to contribute to a local school or charity. An increasingly diverse society means that public bodies of all types need the expertise of committed people from all walks of life to ensure balanced community involvement and representation.

Committing relatively small amounts of time can be very rewarding as a volunteer and for the organisation that benefits from your contribution. It also has the potential to benefit your employer and career with the new skills you will gain. This is why the Appointments Commission, Charity Commission, School Governors' One-Stop Shop, National Union of Students and Getting On Board are working in partnership to promote board level working to all those who want to help make a difference.

How about you?

The Appointments Commission is the only organisation in England dedicated to public appointments, recruiting and selecting the best possible people to non-executive roles in all areas of public life.

Responsible for recruiting and appointing Chairs and non-executives to NHS Trust boards, the Commission also provides non-executive recruitment services for Foundation Trusts and public bodies across central government.

NHS trusts are big organisations with thousands of staff and substantial annual budgets. They need diverse, talented non-executives with a broad range of very senior commercial and professional skills and leadership ability, who can think strategically.

If you think you could contribute to shaping healthcare in your community, you should be talking to the Appointments Commission.

CHARITY COMMISSION

The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, responsible for regulating charities, increasing their effectiveness and promoting public trust and confidence in the sector. The Charity Commission also provides a wide range of advice and guidance to charities and trustees.

Charities are part of British life, ranging from small groups meeting local needs to well-known major charities with budgets of millions. They operate for the public benefit and independently of government or commercial interests. There are some 180,000 registered charities in England and Wales.

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They come from all walks of life and almost everyone has abilities, knowledge or experience that they can bring to a charity. The work of a trustee should be rewarding and enjoyable, and an opportunity to serve the community while learning new skills. A strong personal commitment to the charity's aims is also important.

If you are interested in contributing to the good governance of a charity, find out more from the Charity Commission or Getting on Board.



The School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) is a small, highly successful charity which recruits volunteers to become governors in schools across England and works with Local Authorities and schools to make mutually beneficial matches. Its services are FREE to Local Authorities, volunteers, employers and schools. Governance is the most important volunteering role in education. Governors work in partnership with school leaders to help provide the best possible standards of education and help children realise their aspirations.

There are around 300,000 volunteer governor places in England in 21,400 maintained schools from nursery through secondary and around 40,000 of these places are vacant at any time. Being a governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity. If you want to help give young people the best possible start, why not apply to become a school governor?



national union of students

The National Union of Students (NUS) is the national umbrella organisation for students' unions in colleges and universities across the UK. These democratically-run charities support, represent and develop students throughout their period of study. Trustees are either elected by their fellow students or appointed for their expertise external to the organisation. The role of a student trustee is an important and challenging one, making a significant contribution to the current work and future direction of their students' union and ensure a sound, healthy and legally compliant organisation.

Trustees need to think strategically, be creative and as a collective they need to bring a range of diverse perspectives to the board. Working with other student leaders and staff to deliver effective representation and campaigning functions as well as providing diverse services, you will help to ensure the best student experience possible.

If you want to share your skills and experience to help change students' lives and can spare from approximately 6 days a year, you should contact your local students' union or NUS for further details.

Getting on Board



Getting on Board raises the overall profile of board level appointments, working with employers to identify opportunities and encouraging candidates to apply for appointments on the boards of charities, schools and other public bodies.

Working with candidates and signposting opportunities for them to develop new skills at board level, Getting on Board gives people the self-confidence to rebuild their careers following redundancy or career breaks, helping candidates find the right role.

Employers are encouraged to promote board level volunteering as part of employee personal development and as part of their corporate responsibility programme. By putting something back into the community in this way, companies not only see their senior talent develop new skills and increase career satisfaction, but become an employer of choice. It's a win win situation!

If you want to build a volunteering career that helps strengthen the governance of our schools and charities, contact Getting on Board.

Everyone has a part to play - where do you fit?

Making the first step towards a board-level appointment is easy. The level of skills and expertise you have gained so far will, in part, help you decide which type or organisation and role is the most suitable for you.

Each type of role has lots of scope to develop within it too. As you gain experience and

confidence in your chosen role, you may then decide to progress within the same area to perhaps a larger or more complex organisation. Alternatively, you may look to take your skills to a different type of public organisation, such as moving from a school governor to becoming a charity trustee or non-executive director.

Limited experience

- Student Union Trustee
- School Governor
- Charity Trustee

Senior level experience

- Student Union Trustee
- School Governor
- Charity Trustee
- Non-executive posts



	Student Trustee	
Role	Skills and Experience	Time commitment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide strategic leadership to the students' union and ensure it remains student-led and relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to think strategically • Strong communication skills • Teamworking • Enjoy working in a democratic environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From approximately 6 days per year

	School Governor	
Role	Skills and Experience	Time commitment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide strategic support to schools, including setting and monitoring the budget and ensuring school improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A desire to help children get the best possible start is essential, and skills in areas such as finance, strategic planning and personnel are often welcomed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 0.5 days per quarter to 1 day per month

	Charity Trustee	
Role	Skills and Experience	Time commitment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To serve on the governing body to ensure the effective management of the Charity and its resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific experience required, however the charity may specify requirements relevant to their particular needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 0.5 days per quarter to 1 day per month depending on the needs of the charity

	Non-executive	
Role	Skills and Experience	Time commitment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings independent perspective and scrutiny to the boardroom. • Key functions are to contribute to development of strategy, ensure that the organisation meets its performance targets and manages all resources effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient/community focus • Strategic direction • Holding to account • Effective influencing and teamwork • Self belief and drive • Intellectual flexibility • Experience in one of the following: Finance, governance, commercial, voluntary or community or specific expertise relating to the organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 2.5 days per month