

**BRITISH WIRELESS
FOR THE BLIND FUND**

KEEPING BLIND PEOPLE IN
TOUCH WITH THE WORLD

Join our Board of Trustees

Connecting and empowering
people living with sight loss



What's included in this pack?

Welcome - page 3

About us - page 4

Our leadership & culture - page 5

Why become a Trustee - page 6

Inclusivity & accessibility - page 7

The role of a Trustee - page 8


What we're looking for - page 9

Meetings & time commitment - page 10

Support & development - page 10

How to apply - page 11

A final word - page 11



"It absolutely made a big difference to his life, it really reduced the loneliness he was feeling."

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of British Wireless for the Blind Fund (BWBF).

Trustees play a vital role in the charity sector. They help ensure organisations are well governed, financially sound, and focused on delivering real impact for the people they exist to serve. At BWBF, our Trustees are central to shaping our future and safeguarding our purpose.

This pack is designed to give you a clear picture of who we are, what we do, and what it means to be a Trustee with us. We hope you enjoy reading it and please do reach out if you have any questions at all.

With warm wishes,



Sophie Jones
Chief Executive
BWBF



About us

For nearly 100 years our small but mighty charity has been unlocking the power of tech for people living with sight loss. Each year, our team of 13 staff and 20 volunteers reaches more than 5,000 people across the UK.

Transforming to meet new needs

Our charity is undergoing an exciting transformation. In 2026, as well as providing free tech as we have for nearly a century, we'll start offering new services to help people with sight loss embrace new technology with confidence and independence.

What will this look like in practice? Instead of only providing radios and audio devices, in the future we'll help our community to navigate a world of tech, including smartphones, smart speakers, accessibility apps, and other technology that could change their daily lives. We'll provide guidance, training, and support - empowering people to choose and use the technology that works for them.

We'll also be changing our name and brand to better reflect who we are and resonate with our community.

Our transformation is grounded in our own extensive research with people with sight loss, ensuring we're responding to the real needs of our community today.

Our size means we stay close to the people we support, while our ambition drives us to think boldly and act strategically.

We are, and will always be, a people-first charity. People are at the heart of everything we do - from those we exist to support, to our staff, volunteers, and Trustees.

Our leadership & culture

We are led by a strong, decisive and welcoming Chief Executive Officer, Sophie Jones, who places staff wellbeing at the heart of her leadership.

We believe that when people feel supported, valued and trusted, they do their best work. This culture extends to our Board, where Trustees are encouraged to contribute openly, challenge constructively, and work collaboratively with the executive team.



Why become a Trustee?

Becoming a Trustee is an opportunity to give something back while also gaining personal and professional fulfilment.

As a Trustee for BWBF, you will:

- ➔ Make a meaningful difference by helping shape the future of a charity with a clear social purpose
- ➔ Use your skills, experience and lived perspective to influence strategic decisions
- ➔ Develop your understanding of charity governance, leadership and impact
- ➔ Gain experience at Board level in a supportive and well run organisation
- ➔ Contribute to a sector that plays a vital role in society



"I wanted to ensure people with sight loss had access to audio information on devices that were easy to use. Knowing what is available, and would meet my needs, was always difficult. BWBF provides this much needed service."

Mike Brace CBE DL, Chair

Inclusivity & accessibility

We are committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve across the UK.

We actively welcome applications from people from under represented backgrounds and are particularly keen to hear from individuals who are living with, or have experience or understanding of, sight loss.

Accessibility matters to us. We aim to ensure that our recruitment process, meetings and Board materials are inclusive and accessible, and we are always open to adjusting our processes to ensure everyone can participate fully and comfortably.

For us, having a diverse Board means having a strong Board, with a wide range of perspectives, experiences and ways of thinking.



The role of Trustee

Trustees are collectively responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity.

Key responsibilities include:

- ➔ Ensuring we act in line with our charitable objects and governing document
- ➔ Setting and overseeing our strategic direction
- ➔ Ensuring financial sustainability and effective use of resources
- ➔ Supporting and constructively challenging the CEO and senior leadership
- ➔ Ensuring legal, regulatory and ethical compliance
- ➔ Acting as ambassadors for the charity

Trustees do not manage day-to-day operations. Instead, they provide oversight, guidance and accountability, working in partnership with the executive team.



What we are looking for

We are seeking Trustees who can bring fresh ideas, thoughtful challenge and a strong commitment to our purpose.

We are looking for people who:

- ➔ Are committed to our objects and values
- ➔ Bring new perspectives shaped by their professional or lived experience
- ➔ Are decisive, yet collaborative in their approach
- ➔ Can balance effective challenge with genuine support
- ➔ Are forward looking and open to innovation and emerging technologies
- ➔ Think strategically while remaining grounded in our mission
- ➔ Are willing to prepare for and actively participate in Board discussions

You do not need to have previous Trustee experience. We value curiosity, sound judgement and a willingness to learn. Depending on the number of applicants, experience with fundraising and/or knowledge of the charity sector may be an advantage. However, we are also really interested in discussing your transferable skills and how our interests may align.

Meetings & time commitment

The Board meets at least four times per year:

- ➔ **Three online meetings**
- ➔ **One in person meeting**, our Annual General Meeting, held each June

Trustees may also choose to join one or more committees, such as the **Finance Committee**, depending on interest and experience.

In addition to meetings, Trustees are expected to review papers in advance and occasionally support specific pieces of work.

Support & development

We want our Trustees to feel confident and supported in their role. This includes:

- ➔ Ongoing access to the CEO and Chair
- ➔ Training and development opportunities
- ➔ A welcoming and respectful Board culture



How to apply

To apply, visit **www.blind.org.uk/join-our-board**

If you would like an informal conversation before applying, please contact our CEO on **sophie@blind.org.uk**

A final word

Joining the Board of BWBF is an opportunity to help shape a small charity with big ambitions and a people first ethos.

If you are motivated by impact, good governance, and the chance to contribute your skills and perspective to a cause that matters, we would love to hear from you.

"It's good to know my own insights and experience can help improve and, sometimes, even change the lives of others.

"The challenges are changing too as audio becomes ubiquitous in almost every piece of tech. Audio connects us with the wider world in so many ways. It's rewarding to be part of such a friendly, collaborative and knowledgeable team who share an ambition to develop and enhance those vital connections for people with sight loss."



John Beesley, Trustee