

ROLE PROFILE: CHAIR OF TRUSTEES MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS

About Medical Detection Dogs

Medical Detection Dogs harnesses the extraordinary power of canine scent detection to transform lives. The charity trains dogs to detect diseases, assist individuals with life-threatening conditions, and contribute to groundbreaking scientific research. As Chair of Trustees, you will play a pivotal leadership role in guiding the charity's strategic direction, governance, and sustainability.

Role Overview

The Chair of Trustees will provide leadership to the Board, ensuring the charity fulfils its mission and operates effectively, ethically, and in compliance with regulatory requirements. Working closely with the CEO and trustees, the Chair will uphold good governance and drive the charity's strategic growth, influence, and impact.

Key Responsibilities

Governance & Leadership

- Provide strategic oversight and ensure the Board fulfils its governance responsibilities.
- Facilitate effective decision-making, ensuring alignment with the charity's mission.
- Oversee compliance with legal, financial, and regulatory obligations.
- Act as an ambassador for the charity, advocating for its work with stakeholders and partners.
- Be actively involved with the work of the charity, the CEO and its leadership team outside formal and informal board meetings.

Board Management

- Lead trustee meetings, setting agendas, chairing discussions, and ensuring actions are implemented.
- Support and mentor trustees to ensure a strong and engaged Board.
- Recruit and develop trustees, promoting diversity and inclusivity within governance.
- Support and mentor the CEO to ensure strong and engaged leadership team.

Stakeholder Engagement & Advocacy

- Represent the charity in high-profile engagements, fostering relationships with funders, partners, and supporters.
- Act as a spokesperson for Medical Detection Dogs in public, media, and governmental settings.
- Strengthen relationships within the healthcare, scientific, and charitable sectors.

Person Specification

Essential Skills & Experience

- Proven experience in senior leadership, governance, or board-level roles, preferably in the charity, healthcare, or research sectors.
- Strong understanding of charity governance, financial oversight, and strategic management.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to inspire and engage stakeholders.
- A track record of advocacy, influence, and relationship-building with key external partners.

Desirable Attributes

- Knowledge or experience in healthcare, medical research, or canine-assisted therapy.
- Previous experience chairing a charity or non-profit Board.
- Fundraising expertise and a strong network within philanthropic, corporate, or research communities.
- Our services and research work are only possible because of the wonderful dogs we work with, and their welfare is vital to us. An understanding and appreciation of dogs would be a distinct advantage.

Personal Characteristics

- Passionate about the charity's mission and committed to making a meaningful impact.
- Integrity, impartiality, and the ability to make sound ethical decisions.
- A strategic thinker with a visionary approach to leadership.

This role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of an innovative and impactful charity.