



Trustee (Council member) / Lead Trustee for Safeguarding

Reporting to: Chair

Liaison with: Members of Council (trustees), staff, multiple partners and stakeholders

Term of office: 4 years, may be extended for a second term

Unremunerated

Usual hours: 4 board meetings a year, AGM, possible sub-committee meetings, discretionary attendance at some evening and fund-raising events

Location: Royal Geographical Society, West London

Introduction

British Exploring Society is a world class youth development charity with a unique heritage, founded on the belief that challenging experiences can define lives, empowering and equipping young people with the courage, integrity, skills, resilience and motivation to make the most of their future.

We prepare young people for expeditions to remote locations where they face challenges, acquire outdoor skills and learn about themselves - as well as undertaking projects with content relevant to their lives and to the fragile environments that they explore.

The results are transformative – not just in terms of practical skills and resilience, but in a new-found confidence and self-belief which they carry forward to their future life. More than this, through their adventure together, our young people forge friendships for life and become part of a unique supportive and continuing community of explorers with shared experiences, values and perspectives on the world.

Our trustees

Our trustees play a vital role at British Exploring Society. They have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, our management and administration. Since 1932 we have always relied on the time individuals donate to us, and our trustees are a cornerstone of that culture of professional volunteering. We want our trustees to enjoy the time they give to us, and to feel motivated and uplifted by the work we do. We do everything we can to involve our trustees in the life of the organisation, to visit and get involved in our activities and to feel the positive impact of their contributions.

Our trustees ensure that we comply with the law, with our Articles, and that we continuously strive to fulfil our charitable purpose. This includes a proactive duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our beneficiaries and a duty of care to ensure beneficiaries and others the charity comes into contact with do not come to harm.

What we expect of all our trustees

The cornerstones of good governance at British Exploring Society are financial sustainability and the well-being and safety of the young people we serve.

Our Trustees help support and shape the culture of the organisation and to foster an atmosphere of openness and trust. This helps ensure that people feel able to report concerns in any area of activity. Protecting people and safeguarding responsibilities are a priority for us. We expect all our trustees to make sure that protecting people from harm is prioritised and that the policies we have in place are appropriate and are being followed by all trustees, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. Further information on the overall responsibilities of all BES trustees is available on request.

Our Lead Trustee for Safeguarding

As we work with young people and vulnerable adults we have a safeguarding lead within the office team. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all our trustees, but we also think it is helpful to have at least one trustee who can provide leadership, expert advice and guidance to fellow trustees on safeguarding matters. As one such trustee is stepping down, we seek a new trustee with a strong background and expertise in safeguarding to join our board, and to support us in delivering on our strategic commitment to provide transformative experiences to young people who can benefit most.

Your background; Person Specification

We are looking for a candidate with a range of qualities and experience likely to include:

- Senior management and/or practitioner experience in a Local Authority, Social Work Dept, education, youth work or charity setting or Health and Social Care Trust with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection services.
- A qualification in social work or experience in practice and/or management of safeguarding children services/inspection of children's services.
- An understanding of the needs (and responses to those needs) of excluded, disadvantaged young people and vulnerable adults with mental health challenges/in care.
- The ability to provide strategic input and challenge to our safeguarding.
- Commitment to the mission and vision of British exploring Society.
- Ability to provide independent guidance and challenge to both board and executive team.

The duties of the Lead Trustee for Safeguarding

Our Lead Trustee for safeguarding will lead on the following areas in relation to safeguarding in addition to their wider responsibilities as a trustee:

- Considering our policies and plans to ensure they reflect legislation, statutory guidance, and the expectations of the Charities Commission.
- Working with the senior Leadership team to review whether the measures we have in place keep people safe.
- Checking that our risk register reflects our safeguarding risks and that appropriate mitigation is in place.
- Making sure there is space in board meetings for reporting, and that trustees understand and challenge reports; Identifying safeguarding training / skills development needs for trustees.
- Making sure there is an annual, and reported, review of policies and procedures.
- Learning with us to improve our policies, procedures and practices.

- Overseeing any allegations against staff or volunteers, together with our CEO.
- Being a point of contact for staff or volunteers if someone wishes to make a complaint about a lack of action in relation to a safeguarding concern.
- Attending activities with staff, volunteers and beneficiaries to understand safeguarding on the ground.
- Making sure we have ways to gather views of staff and volunteers and sharing these with the board.

What happens next?

Please contact Ian Maginnis, Chair to register your interest by [email to ian.maginnis.im@gmail.com](mailto:ian.maginnis.im@gmail.com) and/or find out more about the role, or

visit www.britishexploring.org for further information about our work, our board and to apply to become a trustee with us. If you have any further questions, please contact us directly on Olivia@britishexploring.org or call us on 020 7591 3141.

British Exploring Society is committed to equal opportunity and to building an executive and volunteer team that together represents a diverse variety of backgrounds and skills and perspectives on the world. The more inclusive we are, the better we think we'll be at delivering our charitable aims.