



National
Academy
for Social
Prescribing

Appointment of

Chair & Finance Trustee

October/November 2024

About us

Let's change the way we look at health and wellbeing

The National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) was established as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee in 2019. Our mission is to help people live the best lives they can through social prescribing.

We are currently seeking a **Chair of Trustees** and **Finance Trustee** to help us shape the future of the health and care system. With a new Government and a new NHS Ten Year Plan in development, now is the time to radically improve the connections between health services and the wealth of non-medical services, groups and activities that benefit people's health and wellbeing.

This is a fantastic opportunity to lead a diverse Board and a committed staff team, working at the intersection of the NHS, the voluntary sector and research - and, by doing so, to change the way we look at health and wellbeing.

What is social prescribing?

Many things that affect our health cannot be treated by doctors or medication alone - like loneliness, isolation or stress due to financial pressures, poor housing, caring responsibilities or long-term physical health conditions. Social prescribing connects people to non-medical support in their community to address these issues and other unmet needs.

Numerous studies demonstrate the power of this approach - for individuals, communities and the health system. That is why social prescribing needs to play a crucial role in the new Government's missions to **prevent health problems from developing and worsening** and to **move care from hospitals to communities**.

NASP is at the forefront of championing social prescribing across England, the UK and the rest of the world. Bringing together the health system and voluntary sector, and working with arts, culture, heritage, sport and natural environment partners, we are uniquely placed to learn from what works and develop effective new approaches.



The Story So Far

Since we began our work in October 2019, we've already made good on our objectives.

There's still much more to do. **But here's a quick look at what we've achieved so far..**

- Delivered the **£1.8 million** Thriving Communities Fund supporting local communities across the country to deliver high impact social prescribing activities, engaging over 10,000 people.
- Led the delivery of the **£5.77 million cross-Government Green Social Prescribing** programme to scale up and embed nature-based social prescribing across local health systems.
- Worked with Social Prescribing Link Workers to create resources that evaluate and demonstrate the impact of their work.
- Worked with some of the country's leading academics to collate robust research and to identify gaps in evidence. Our evidence shows that social prescribing can have a positive impact in many ways. And that it can save costs for the NHS. These reviews have helped to underpin policy and inform Government plans, including the Major Conditions Strategic Framework.
- Generated huge interest in social prescribing across communities, industry, and Government. Social prescribing now plays a **key role in the strategies and plans of many national organisations** - including NAVCA, Sport England, Historic England, Natural England, Independent Age, Arts Council England, the National Centre for Creative Health and the Money and Pensions Service.
- Supported hundreds of 'Social Prescribing Clinical Champions' working to raise awareness and champion social prescribing in **22 clinical and non-clinical** disciplines.
- Raised awareness of social prescribing. Surveys show that social prescribing is increasingly understood by the public, with **19% of people in England** recognising the term "social prescribing". Government survey showed **97% of doctors** feel "favourable" towards social prescribing in primary care.
- Connected **30 countries** and the **World Health Organisation** for knowledge sharing and learning through our International Social Prescribing programme.
- Established a **multi million pound fund** for music and dementia and a framework for social prescribing shared investment funds.
- Set up a **Healthcare Integration Programme** to support health and care providers and partnerships to embed social prescribing.

What does our evidence say?

Various academic research and studies including matched control have shown;

- Measurable improvements in wellbeing, physical and mental health
- Social and economic benefit - with a social return on investment of between £3-£8 for each £1 invested
- Reductions in GP appointments, hospital admissions and A&E attendances
- Cost savings for the NHS

Strategy 2023-26

The National Academy for Social Prescribing has grown rapidly since 2019, developing and delivering a number of hugely successful global, national and regional programmes to meet our aims. As we develop, we continue to refine our offer while keeping the bar high in terms of what we want to achieve. Our values of belonging, collaboration, ambition, curiosity and integrity will run through everything we do.

Our 2023-26 strategy sets out our long-term ambitions for social prescribing and is centred around five key ambitions that transform the scale and impact of social prescribing:



A connected social prescribing system enabling easier access to activities and information;

- By 2026 all communities will have link workers, community hubs and trained local connectors.

Local, national and international partnerships driving innovative ideas and approaches;

- By 2026 we will co-design and test five approaches to addressing high priority health and wellbeing needs.



Boosted investment in community activities directly supporting people's health and wellbeing;

- By 2026 there will be more accessible investment for social prescribing aligned with integrated care systems.

The best evidence shaping social prescribing policy, practice and research.

- By 2026 there will be an international evidence collaborative across 20 countries delivering a shared strategic evidence agenda.



A raised profile of how social prescribing changes lives and strengthens communities.

- By 2026 two-thirds of adults will report that they recognise the value of social prescribing activities to health and wellbeing.

You can access our full Strategic Plan [here](#).

Our vision: We want to help people to live the best life they can through **social prescribing**

Our values

- **We value belonging** - We are dedicated to embedding and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion throughout our work, and celebrating difference in our teams and beyond. We promote social prescribing as a way to support marginalised and excluded communities, to promote belonging, and to address inequalities. We recognise we have more to do and further to go to challenge imbalances of power and privilege that create barriers and discrimination within social prescribing. We have an Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging strategy and action plan in place for this year and next to turn these aspirations into meaningful action.
- **We value collaboration** - Meaningful relationships are at the heart of social prescribing. We seek to build, enhance and sustain fruitful partnerships and networks, locally, nationally and globally, across the social prescribing movement.
- **We value ambition** - We are ambitious for the communities we work with, aiming to maximise the contribution of social prescribing. We seek to drive the movement to its full potential by being bold, creative and innovative.
- **We value curiosity** - Learning, listening and gathering evidence underpins everything that we do. We bring people together to discover what works in social prescribing, share good practice, and build collective knowledge that can deliver real impact.
- **We value integrity** - We trust in our communities and partners and seek to be a trusted part of the social prescribing movement. We share our thinking and our work openly, challenging ourselves and others to be better, encouraging feedback and reflection when we fall short.



It's changed my life - and that's all through social prescribing and the people I've met - **Linda**

About the Chair role

Summary of the Chair role

NASP is looking to appoint an outstanding Chair who will lead the Board of Trustees, providing strategic vision, governance, and oversight to ensure NASP fulfills its mission to help people live the best lives they can through social prescribing. The Chair will work closely with the Chief Executive, Charlotte Osborn-Forde, the Board, and key stakeholders to promote the charity's work at the highest levels, contributing to policy, advocating for change, and fostering collaboration with key partners across health and social care, with a particular emphasis on the NHS, to drive the impact of social prescribing.

The Chair of NASP will:

- act as an ambassador for the charity, representing its values and mission at the highest levels within the health and social care sectors and Government;
- maintain strong relationships within government and healthcare sectors, ensuring access to key decision-makers;
- provide appropriate support and challenge to the Chief Executive, Charlotte Osborn-Forde, and the full executive team;
- ensure both that Board decisions are acted upon and that the organisation is effectively managed; and,
- ensure that the highest standards of governance are maintained.

Terms of appointment

- **Term:** initial three-year term. Board members can be re-appointed to the Board of Trustees up to a maximum of two terms.
- **Location:** Hybrid - Board and Subcommittee meetings are either in-person at the Southbank Centre, London, in other venues around the country or remote.
- **Remuneration:** voluntary - unpaid. Reasonable expenses where applicable (e.g., travel) will be reimbursed.
- **Time commitment:** 2-3 days a month.



About the Chair role contd.

We particularly welcome candidates with the following experience and understanding:

- Excellent experience and understanding of the healthcare system and healthcare policy, with a particular emphasis on areas relevant to the work of NASP such as DHSC and the NHS.
- Proven track record of engaging with government bodies and influencing policy at senior levels;
- Established networks with access to high-level decision-makers across government, healthcare, and the wider public sector;
- Political influence gained through success in chosen executive or non-executive career;
- Prior experience of working strategically to board level either as a Chair or Trustee.

Knowledge, Skills and Personal Attributes:

- Outstanding leadership skills, with the ability to build consensus whilst balancing the need for debate and challenge;
- Excellent stakeholder engagement and relationship-building skills, both within organisations and externally;
- Gravitas to network amongst the most senior of government officials and excellent interpersonal skills to leverage influence across key policy groups;
- Strong communication skills to articulate the case for social prescribing amongst a range of senior stakeholders; and,
- A passion for the charity's mission, with the energy and commitment to advocate for its goals at a national level.



About the Finance Trustee role

Summary of trustee role

As a trustee, you will be jointly responsible with the rest of the NASP board for the overall governance and strategic direction of the National Academy for Social Prescribing, developing its aims, objectives and goals in accordance with charity and company legal and regulatory requirements.

The board of trustees ensures that NASP has sufficient resources to deliver our mission and that our resources are managed effectively, to protect the wealth and assets of the organisation. You will be legally responsible for the assets and debts of NASP, as a registered company and charity.

NASP are seeking experienced candidates capable of delivering strategic financial insights from the highest level, with corporate governance experience to join the Board, and to Chair the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee.

We particularly welcome candidates with experience in:

- strategic finance from the highest level, with a strategic and commercial approach alongside broad expertise at board level;
- commercial skills, business development and income generation; and
- knowledge of corporate governance and risk.

Terms of appointment

- **Term:** initial three-year term. Board members can be re-appointed to the Board of Trustees up to a maximum of two terms.
- **Location:** Hybrid - Board and Subcommittee meetings are either in-person at the Southbank Centre, London, in other venues around the country or remote.
- **Remuneration:** voluntary - unpaid. Reasonable expenses where applicable (e.g., travel) will be reimbursed.
- **Time commitment:** 1-2 days a month - this involves six Board meetings a year, including one Board away day. Subcommittee meetings by agreement four to six times a year.



NASP Board Members

All Board members are responsible for:

- ensuring that NASP complies with guidelines, legislation and any other legislation or regulations;
- making sure that NASP pursues defined goals in line with its stated objectives and strategic plan;
- monitoring the financial position and ensuring that it operates within its means and that there are clear lines of accountability for financial management;
- ensuring that the resources of the organisation are used only to pursue legitimate objectives;
- contributing to the board of trustees' role of providing strategic direction and supporting the development of policies, goals and targets;
- maintaining the good name of the organisation;
- making sure that the administration is carried out efficiently;
- ensuring the financial stability of an organisation;
- scrutinising board papers and other communications;
- using specific expertise to assist in certain areas, such as public relations, lived experience, stakeholder relationships, health and safety;
- participating in working groups as necessary;
- attending seminars and networking events when required;
- leading discussions and providing guidance on new initiatives, particularly in areas where the Trustee has specific skills, knowledge or expertise;
- maintaining confidentiality about any sensitive or confidential information received in the course of duties as a trustee;
- regularly attending and taking a full part in meetings;
- leadership for equality, diversity and inclusion.



NASP Board Schedule

Board Meetings

Board Informal	30/01/2025	10-11am
Board Formal F2F	13/03/2025	2-4pm
Board Informal	24/04/2025	10-11am
Board Formal and Away Day F2F	05/06/2025	10.30-4pm
Board Informal	17/07/2025	10-11am
Board Formal F2F	25/09/2025	2-4pm
Board Informal	30/10/2025	10-11am
Board Formal F2F	04/12/2025	10-12pm

Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee

FAIRCo	27/02/2025	10-11am
FAIRCo	22/05/2025	10-11am
FAIRCo	18/09/2025	10-11am
FAIRCo	20/11/2025	10-11am

People, Culture and Remuneration Committee

REMCo	27/02/2025	2-3pm
REMCo	15/05/2025	10-11am
REMCo	11/09/2025	10-11am
REMCo	13/11/2025	10-11am

Please note: Informal Board meetings and FAIRCo/REMCo subcommittee meetings are generally always virtual; and Formal Board meetings are generally in person.



How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the National Academy for Social Prescribing on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **ZBGPB for the Chair appointment**, and **ZBGPC for the Finance Trustee appointment**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Thursday 21st November 2024**

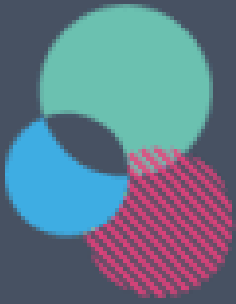
* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

Due diligence

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.



National Academy for Social Prescribing