

# Bridge Support

## ABOUT THIS ROLE

1 to 2 days a month.

UK – London, Essex and the South East

July 2024

### About Bridge Support

Bridge Support, a charitable organisation established in 1986, provides mental health services in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Expanding into Essex in 2019, Bridge now manages the whole mental health pathway for high, medium and low support in Essex and also provides complex needs services for the South London Partnership in South West and South East London.

In the year ended 31 March 2023, Bridge's income was £5.1M and its budgeted income for this current year is £8.1M.

Bridge understands the complexity of providing mental health services that serve the needs of the individual in a health care system under pressure due to increasing demand and shrinking budgets. Bridge firmly believes that the flexible pathways it provides – across varied support needs, ranging from low-level flexible support to high-level 24-hour support, forensic service, hospital to home service and a non-NHS Recovery College model – supports people back to living independently within the community. Bridge makes a big difference to its clients and students, and this is regularly evidenced by testimonials and feedback to the Board.

Although Bridge Support is governed by its charitable status it is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is effectively run by the CEO and Executive team as a business.

### Role specification

This is a very exciting time to join the Bridge Board of Trustees and finding the right Chair is critical as Bridge is not only consolidating its recent significant growth but also looking to develop its services further.

### Role Summary

The Chair will provide inclusive leadership to the Board and Trustees, ensuring that they fulfil and stay true to Bridge's vision, mission and longer-term strategy and carry out their duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of the charity. The Chair will work closely with the CEO, the Executive team, the Board and staff, working collaboratively to achieve agreed objectives.

Principal responsibilities include:

- Work with Trustees and the Chief Executive to ensure that there is a clear and shared understanding among Trustees, staff and stakeholders of Bridge's vision, mission, charitable and strategic objectives.
- Work with the Chief Executive to ensure that the Board has robust and timely information to enable it to make well informed decisions and demonstrate the impact of Bridge's work with its clients and stakeholders.
- Oversee the performance of the Board and the CEO, ensuring accountability as well as constructive challenge and being able to have effective difficult conversations, if required, with the CEO and Board.
- Provide advocacy for Bridge in ways that complement the role of the CEO, particularly within influential networks and with key stakeholders, with a view to further strengthen its credibility and strategic position both regionally and nationally.

## **Person specification**

The new Chair will be possess the qualities below:

- Ability to provide inclusive leadership in the boardroom and representing Bridge Support externally.
- Understanding of the difference between the non-executive and executive role, as well as the importance of the relationship between a Chair and the CEO.
- Appreciation of non-profit environments and how lean entities operate in a challenging environment.
- Strong alignment with Bridge's strategic priorities and model for change, as well as willingness to communicate the charity's approach convincingly to a wide range of audiences, including those operating within the policy and political systems.
- Demonstrable commitment to championing equality and diversity.

## **Board composition**

Details of the current Board are here: <https://bridgesupport.org/meet-the-trustees/>

## **Terms of appointment**

This position is unremunerated but reasonable, pre-agreed travel expenses can be claimed. The time commitment is estimated to be initially 1- 2 days per month maximum, to work with the CEO and Board to manage the Chair transition, including effective relationship management and one-off activities, such as Trustee recruitment.

## **Application**

Please send a copy of your CV and a covering letter of no more than three pages to [sarah.baxter@bridgesupport.org](mailto:sarah.baxter@bridgesupport.org)