

# SEXPRESSION:UK

## Sexpression:UK Trustee Candidate Information Pack



May 2020

### Contents

1. Introduction
2. Advert
3. About Sexpression:UK
4. Role Description
5. Person Specification



<https://sexpression.org.uk>

Registered Charity | 166559 England and Wales | SCO47637 Scotland



## 1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of Sexpression:UK. Founded initially in 2000 and gaining charity status in 2016, Sexpression:UK works to provide relationships and sex education (RSE) to young people throughout the UK.

This is an exciting time to join the Board of Trustees as we look to build for the future of the organisation following a few years of stabilisation after gaining charity status in 2016. We are looking to develop into a forward thinking, proactive Board as we strategise for the medium to long term. With the introduction of statutory relationships and sex education in secondary schools in England from September 2020, Sexpression:UK has never been so important or relevant for ensuring that all young people are able to access high quality, comprehensive RSE.

We are looking for up to three new trustees to join the existing Board and bring governance of the highest quality. We're especially (but not exclusively) looking for individuals with fundraising, accounting, media, safeguarding, or education experience although are keen to hear from anyone who feels they have the passion and determination to help drive the charity forward.

The role of trustee is of vital importance to the running of Sexpression:UK and having a strong and active Board is essential for us as we build on recent successes and continue to develop our offering for the public benefit.

This pack should provide you with everything you need to support your application. If you need any further information then visit our website ([www.sexpression.org.uk](http://www.sexpression.org.uk)) or email [director@sexpression.org.uk](mailto:director@sexpression.org.uk).

**We hope you decide to apply for this exciting role and look forward to hearing from you.**



Joanna Melville | National Director



Matthew Williams | Chair of Trustees



## 2. Advert

<b>Role:</b>	Sexpression:UK Trustee
<b>Remuneration:</b>	The role is not accompanied by any financial remuneration although reasonable expenses may be claimed for attendance at in-person meetings
<b>Commitment:</b>	Four Board meetings a year (usually conducted online), attendance at the Sexpression:UK General Assembly held in March or April each year, attendance at the annual National Committee handover in May or June each year, plus correspondence with and providing assistance to volunteer committee members in between meetings
<b>Duration:</b>	Two-year term (with possible extension to a maximum of three terms)
<b>Location:</b>	Home based
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Chair of the Board of Trustees
<b>Positions available:</b>	Up to three

**Are you passionate about using your skills and expertise to help support and develop a UK-wide relationships and sex education charity?**

Sexpression:UK provides high quality, comprehensive relationships and sex education workshops to young people between the ages of 11-18 in schools and youth groups. We operate across the UK through our unique network of affiliated branches and volunteers based at universities and students' unions in 26 towns and cities from Aberdeen to Southampton.

You will have strong empathy with our mission to educate and empower young people to make individual, informed decisions about their bodies and their health. You will be committed to using your expertise to contribute to the future development of the charity and ensuring high quality governance of the organisation.





We particularly welcome applications from people with experience in fundraising (specifically trusts and grants fundraising and corporate fundraising), PSHE (personal, social and health education), public campaigning and media relations, safeguarding, and those with accounting qualifications and experience. Applicants with accounting experience may be offered the opportunity to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer.

Sexpression:UK is committed to ensuring that all candidates are considered fairly based on their performance against the person specification. This ensures that we recruit the best candidates for the role irrespective of their background, socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, disability status or sexual orientation.

## How to apply

To apply, please submit your CV and a supporting letter (maximum 2 pages) that includes the following:

- Your motivations for applying for the role of Sexpression:UK Trustee
- A detailed explanation about your suitability for the role with specific focus on how you meet the criteria set out in the person specification

Applications must be submitted to [chair@sexpression.org.uk](mailto:chair@sexpression.org.uk) no later than 23.59pm on Sunday 12th July 2020.

If you wish to arrange an informal discussion about the role before applying then please contact [director@sexpression.org.uk](mailto:director@sexpression.org.uk).







### 3. About Sexpression:UK

Sexpression:UK is a charity registered in England and Wales (1166559) and Scotland (SC047637) with the goal of empowering young people to make decisions about relationships and sex by running informal and comprehensive relationships and sex education workshops in the community. We take a 'near-peer' approach to these sessions which are facilitated by university students and as a charity we are entirely run by volunteers.

Founded in 2000 as a pilot study at University College London exploring the benefits of peer-led relationships and sex education, Sexpression:UK developed into a nationwide unincorporated association starting with the addition of a branch in Edinburgh. The organisation operated with no official structure until the attainment of Charitable Incorporated Organisation status in April 2016. Since then, Sexpression:UK has been governed by the Board of Trustees who delegate responsibility for the day-to-day management to an elected National Committee of student volunteers.

Sexpression:UK now works in 26 university towns and cities throughout the UK. Over 750 volunteers provide around 250 workshops and work with around 6000 young people each year. We provide sessions covering the full range of the new statutory RSE curriculum including bodily changes, sex and the media, sexual orientation and gender identity, healthy relationships and consent.





## Sexpression:UK Vision and Values

### Vision

Sexpression:UK aims for a society in which young people are able to access reliable information about relationships, sex and sexuality; where youth are free from STIs, and unwanted pregnancy; and where they are empowered to make individual, informed decisions regarding their bodies and their health.

### Values

<i>Near-peer:</i>	Because university students are closer in age to the young people than their teachers and parents, our near-peer teaching encourages young people to participate.
<i>Empowering:</i>	Young people's individual beliefs are respected, and our teaching helps young people to act on them. We also encourage young people to respect the beliefs of others.
<i>Informal:</i>	Young people learn best and are more likely to make informed decisions about sex and relationships if they participate in discussions rather than being lectured.
<i>Comprehensive:</i>	Young people should be informed about all aspects of their sexual and reproductive health.



## 4. Role Description

Trustees are ultimately responsible, individually and collectively, for the management and administration of the charity. The most effective Boards are those which benefit from individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences and skills working collaboratively together to further the aims of the organisation. As a trustee, you will work with the rest of the Board to ensure that the fundamental responsibilities of the trustees are being completed and that the charity complies fully with all its legal obligations. You will be responsible for setting the vision and values of the organisation, developing a long-term strategy which ensures that the charity continues to provide a public benefit.



As a trustee, you will attend quarterly Board meetings (usually conducted online) and be required to attend the annual General Assembly held in the second term of the academic year and the annual National Committee handover which takes place during May or June. You will contribute to setting the direction of the charity, ensuring good governance and providing support and constructive criticism to the elected volunteers who form the National Committee. You would be expected to, within reason, provide support to National Committee members in between the Trustee Board meetings as dictated by operational requirements.

**The statutory duties of a trustee are to:**

- Ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- Comply with the charity's governing document and the law
- Act in the charity's best interests
- Manage the charity's resources responsibly
- Act with reasonable care and skill
- Ensure the charity is accountable

**To take on the role of a trustee you must meet the legal requirements for being a charity trustees including:**

- You must be at least 16 years old
- You must not be disqualified from being a trustee. Reasons for disqualification include if you:
  - are disqualified as a company director
  - have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud)
  - are an undischarged bankrupt (or subject to sequestration in Scotland), or have a current composition or arrangement including an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) with your creditors
  - have been removed as a trustee of any charity by the Commission (or the court) because of misconduct or mismanagement
  - are on the sex offenders' register
- You must have the right to undertake voluntary work in the UK



## 5. Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>		
Evidence of successfully working in a leadership or governance role (this could be through work or voluntary experience)	✓	
Experience of successfully dealing with strategic issues, including interpretation of complex information and business planning		✓
Demonstrable experience of building and sustaining relationships with key stakeholders and colleagues to achieve organisational objectives		✓
Relevant professional experience in fundraising, public campaigning and media relations, PSHE, safeguarding, or accounting		✓
A proven track record of sound judgement and effective decision making	✓	
<b>KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND UNDERSTANDING</b>		
Knowledge of the effective governance of organisations (public, private or third sector)	✓	
A good knowledge and understanding of the statutory responsibilities of trusteeship and the relevant legislation	✓	
Good independent judgement and vision	✓	
An understanding of the relationships and sex education sector		✓
An understanding of the respective roles of the Chair, Trustees and the National Committee		✓
An ability to work effectively as a member of a team	✓	
Preparedness to make recommendations to the board and a willingness to offer an opinion in a constructive manner	✓	
Strong communication skills, with the ability to relate to, and communicate effectively with, people at all levels	✓	





VALUES AND ATTITUDES		
A strong and visible passion and commitment to the charity and	✓	
A creative and innovative thinker with the ability to drive positive		✓
A leader on equality of opportunity who values diversity and re-	✓	
Ability to commit the time required to conduct the role well, in-	✓	
Willingness to be available to the National Committee for advice	✓	
Ability to be decisive and to lead and guide others in decision	✓	

