



## **DENS Trustee – Role Advert**

### **1. About DENS**

DENS has been helping to rebuild lives since 2003. Most people know DENS as the homeless charity for people in Dacorum. In fact, DENS do so much more than just provide a roof and a bed. Our aim is to be the first port of call for people in Dacorum who are facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion; to support and empower them to take the next positive step in their lives, secure and maintain a long-term housing option and be an active member of their community.

We ensure individuals have access to temporary and short-term accommodation, and individuals and families have access to emergency food and provisions. We also provide advice and training, enabling people to develop their skills and build confidence.

For more information about the services DENS offers please visit: [www.dens.org.uk](http://www.dens.org.uk)

You can also watch videos about our services at: [www.youtube.com/@densindacorum](http://www.youtube.com/@densindacorum)



DENS - Bike Project  
53 views • 3 days ago



DENS - Foodbank  
23 views • 4 days ago



DENS - Day Centre  
15 views • 4 days ago



DENS - Helping Rebuild Lives  
188 views • 2 months ago

### **2. About the Role**

We are looking to expand and refresh our Board of Trustees, ensuring our Board has the right mix of skills to govern DENS effectively and support the effective delivery of our new strategy. We welcome applications from all sections of our community; you do not need to come from a professional background, and you do not need to have been a Trustee before to apply. If you are a first-time Trustee, we will be able to help and support you in the role.

We are seeking committed, enthusiastic and talented individuals, who can use their experience, skills and expertise to help DENS flourish, who will share our vision for DENS, and who are committed to our values and ethos. We are looking for individuals who can think strategically, communicate well, work as part of a team, make effective decisions, think

creatively and manage risk. We are particularly interested in those with an accountancy, finance background to become our Treasurer.

### ***Main Duties and Responsibilities of a Trustee***

DENS is governed by a Board of Trustees who have ultimate responsibility for the success of DENS, and its compliance with the legal and regulatory obligations of a charity. Together with DENS' executive team, the Board of Trustees:

- (i) Set the strategic direction of DENS, ensuring that its work and goals are in line with its vision and acting in DENS' best interests.
- (ii) Manage DENS' resources responsibly – making sure they are well used, managing risk and ensuring that the charity is run sustainably.
- (iii) Provide support and challenge to help the CEO manage the day-to-day operations of DENS effectively.
- (iv) Take a more hands on role for certain projects, where a Trustee can bring their particular skills and experience.

You can read more about the role of a Trustee in [The Essential Trustee](#) (a guide from the Charity Commission).

### ***Personal Specification***

The successful applicant will demonstrate the following competencies:

- *Strategic thinking*: A proven ability to think strategically, analyse complex concepts and actively contribute to the strategic direction setting of DENS, both over the long and short term.
- *Communication*: Demonstrable effective written and oral communication skills, the ability to influence others and to advocate on behalf of DENS.
- *Teamwork*: A proven ability to work as part of a team that makes collective decisions and takes collective responsibility, supporting decisions once made.
- *Judgement*: Demonstrable ability to exercise independent judgement, balance competing views and approaches, and actively contribute to decision making.
- *Innovation*: Proven ability to contribute new ideas and perspectives to a discussion and to think creatively around a problem.
- *Risk management*: The ability to recognise risks which might affect DENS (financial, reputational, operational etc.), and to manage those risks in accordance with the agreed risk appetite of the organisation.
- *The specific skills required by the Board*: we are particularly looking for Trustees with skills or experience in (i) Policy (ii) Fundraising / Marketing (iii) Building Management.

The successful applicant will also have the following personal values:

- A strong personal commitment to the vision and mission of DENS. Given DENS' focus on supporting people in Dacorum, we would particularly welcome applicants that live or work in the area.
- A commitment to DENS' values.

- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of a charity Trustee.

### ***Remuneration***

This is a voluntary post, although reasonable expenses may be reimbursed.

### ***Time Commitment***

The time commitment is expected to be around 10 days per year, with bi-monthly Board meetings held in Hemel Hempstead. Papers are provided in advance of each meeting, and Trustees are expected to read papers in advance. We can provide the option of joining a meeting via video conferencing if essential, but encourage face-to-face discussion wherever possible. Attending DENS events where possible and making the time to visit our services would be a priority.

### ***Further Information***

If you would like to discuss the role informally and in confidence, please contact Wendy Lewington (our CEO) who can put you in touch with one of our Trustees.

### **3. How to Apply**

Please send a current CV (max 2 pages) with a covering letter (max 2 pages) to Wendy ([wendy.lewington@dens.org.uk](mailto:wendy.lewington@dens.org.uk)) demonstrating how you meet the personal specification above.