



FUNDRAISING TRUSTEE

Trustee of Ride High Limited [CRN 07363597, Registered charity no. 1138260, www.ridehigh.org]

Voluntary Board Position (11 x 2 hour board meetings per year, plus 4 hours per month)

We are seeking to appoint a new Trustee to our Board who has the skills to fulfil the Fundraising Trustee role.

Applicants will have a proven track record of success in their own area of expertise. Applicants should have an understanding of the principles and practice of good governance, have high standards of integrity and be able to promote and support Ride High in appropriate settings.

It is our hope to increase the diversity of our Board. We would be keen to increase the number of younger people, individuals from a BAME background, and members of the LGBTQ community on the Board.

Overview of Ride High

Ride High is a registered charity working with Milton Keynes' most disadvantaged children. It was started in 2008 by Rachel Medill MBE with a pilot working with 6 children with the idea that using horses could engage desperately sad, disengaged children and transform their lives. Now the charity works with 88 children every week. It has a very strong track record - 90% of its leavers are in full time school or are in a college course or work experience. It only accepts children onto the programme via referrals from a childcare professional. The charity's work can be seen at www.ridehigh.org and on fb @ridehighmk and twitter @ridehighmk. In 2017 the charity embarked on an ambitious plan to become financially sustainable. It acquired a 30-year lease on a 37-acre equestrian centre half a mile from MK's city centre. The equestrian centre is a wholly owned trading subsidiary of the charity and all profits are gift aided to the charity. The equestrian centre business has a unique proposition being a wellbeing centre using horses to help a wide range of clients from children on the autistic spectrum to corporate clients looking for training in leadership and other areas, in addition to running a commercial riding school. In 2020, its third year of operation, the subsidiary was expected to contribute funds to the charity, starting to fulfil the vision of sustainability and from there scalability to other urban centres in the UK. These plans have been curtailed by COVID-19 but it is hoped to resume strategy as soon as the wider economic circumstances permit. The charity has 9 FTE employees, the subsidiary 13 FTE employees.

What will you be doing?

The role will bring a fresh perspective to fundraising plans and strategy and actively support the organisation's dedicated fundraisers and will ensure fundraising is of the highest standard and priority.

The main responsibilities of the fundraiser trustee will be to:

- Chair the fundraising committee and to make sure it is carried out in legal, honest and accountable ways.
- To have a good understanding of fundraising, an ability to monitor progress and hold fundraisers to account and to ask the right questions about fundraising strategy and implementation.
- Strategically assess where fundraising fits into the overall organisation strategy and to work with senior fundraising staff to ensure effective income generation is being achieved.
- Contribute to the knowledge of fundraising techniques and strategies, understand results and approve budgets with real insight.
- Carry out risk assessment at every fundraising stage, especially when considering new or ambitious fundraising strategies.
- Network on behalf of the charity to solicit funds on a peer-to-peer basis.
- Support and encourage the fundraising team in their work and to design and facilitate the organisation's approach to fundraising.
- Be an active champion of the organisation.
- Encourage an entrepreneurial fundraising culture and assess the cost benefit ratio of each planned type of fundraising.

What are we looking for?

Qualities of a Fundraising Trustee

Essential

- Someone with sufficient fundraising/income-generation knowledge and/or business development background or having run a medium size business.
- An understanding of the UK charity sector, good governance, Charity Commission, Companies House requirements, relevant legislations and statutory requirements.
- An understanding of the challenges facing small to medium UK charities in maximising income streams & donor cultivation.
- Experience of diverse fundraising practices, including statutory funds, corporate and philanthropic giving would be valuable.
- Excellent networking skills, influencing and communication skills.

Desirable

- A thorough understanding of the Code of Fundraising Practice.

To apply

Please send your CV and covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to olivia.sugdon@ridehigh.org by Friday 23rd September. If you would like more information before applying, please contact Olivia.