



**emmaus**  
Leicestershire & Rutland  
working together to end homelessness

# Trustee Candidate Pack



Working together to end homelessness



## Welcome

Thank you for taking an interest in joining Emmaus Leicestershire & Rutland as a trustee.

Emmaus Leicestershire & Rutland was established in 2012. Our homelessness charity works across the Leicestershire and Rutland area. We provide a home, support and work opportunities to our residents (known as companions) who have previously been homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We currently accommodate up to 16 people; everyone has their own room and private bathroom whilst living in our community, as well as access to many large communal areas where they can socialise.

Our Board of Trustees is a cohesive group of professionals. They work alongside our staff and volunteers to support our companions. Trustees are an integral part of our organisation and play an important role in governance, ensuring the success of Emmaus continues.

2025 is a year of growth and opportunity for Emmaus Leicestershire & Rutland, as we embark on the development of our new strategy.

If you would like to be part of something amazing, please get in touch.

For an informal chat please contact me, Dawn Wright details on final page.

This pack includes:

- About us – what we do, our background and ethos
- Trustee Role Description and Person Specification
- How to apply and contact us

We look forward to hearing from you.

Dawn Wright  
Director



# About us

## History

The first Emmaus community was founded in Paris, in 1949. Since then, Emmaus has grown into an international movement with more than 400 groups based in 41 countries across the world. All affiliated communities undertake to live sustainably and support those who fall through the net.

## Emmaus in the UK

There are 29 Emmaus communities across the UK, supporting more than 815 formerly homeless people. In addition, there are five Emmaus groups which are working towards setting up an Emmaus community in their area.

## How it works

Like any flourishing community, Emmaus is most successful when everyone contributes. For us, that means working together in the social enterprise (our Emporium charity shop), to generate funds needed to support the community and the companions that call it home.

In return, our residents (called 'companions') are expected to contribute 40 hours per week or as much as they are able in the charity's social enterprise. They are required to stop claiming all working benefits except for housing benefit, which is handed over to help support the community. The ultimate goal is for each community to become self-sufficient, supporting itself with the revenue it generates through its businesses.

The Emmaus model restores confidence and self-respect because companions take responsibility for keeping their community going and work hard to support themselves and others.

Emmaus is not about giving hand-outs, it's about providing people with the tools they need to help themselves. This approach has been proven to produce long-term, sustainable results. For the many people who have been stuck in a cycle of homelessness, Emmaus provides the safe space and support they need to take stock of their lives and make positive changes for the future.

# Our stories

So many people have a great story to tell about how Emmaus has touched their lives. Whether they're companions, staff, trustees or volunteers, these stories show the impact Emmaus can have:

Read all our stories: [emmaus.org.uk/leicestershire-rutland/our-stories](https://emmaus.org.uk/leicestershire-rutland/our-stories)

## This is Steve's story...

"I was homeless for 18 years, living from day to day and not knowing when or if it would ever end. It was a very scary experience. I slept wherever I could, in so many different places. Sometimes it was in a park, or I'd find a secluded bench for the night. I often found a spot down by a riverside, away from passers-by.

Keeping myself safe was a big concern. I even sometimes slept under a bush – hidden away so no-one would spot me. I couldn't keep myself completely safe though; I was attacked on four separate occasions – each time it was a terrifying experience.

I felt completely alone, with no-one to help me through any of it; I got no support. That's all changed now I've found Emmaus. I've lived in a series of Emmaus communities across the UK. At the moment I'm part of Emmaus Leicestershire & Rutland and I've been here for over three years. It's like a new family. Everyone supports each other and I have a role that I really enjoy – working in our Boutique charity shop in Hinckley.



Living together with other companions is definitely all part of the Emmaus experience.

There are 16 of us living at 'Elm Lea', our residential building. We share the everyday running of the property and we all socialise together; we try to be there to support each other, just like in a family. The Emmaus staff also give us support and help each of us through our individual problems.

Having been helped by Emmaus for so long, I'm now trying to give something back. I regularly do sponsored walks to raise money for the charity and to help spread the word about how important its work is. There's no two ways about it – Emmaus saved my life, and I'm so very grateful."

# Trustee Recruitment

## About the role

We look forward to welcoming new trustees to our board and are committed to building a diverse group of talent with a broad range of backgrounds, skills, and capabilities. This is an exciting time to join us as we continue to thrive post-pandemic and move forward with our next stage of development.

This is a strong, cohesive board where individual skills are highly valued and have helped develop a unique and successful model. However, our companions are central to our ethos and success. Some choose to stay and make Emmaus their permanent home; others leave once they have found work and accommodation. Trustees are here to support companions and provide the strategic lead and governance of the community. We are particularly interested in hearing from a diverse range of candidates with experience and skills in any of the following areas:

- Housing
- Finance / Treasurer
- HR
- Fundraising
- Business Operations, IT, Legal
- Social Care
- Retail & Online Sales

## Main purpose of the trustee role

- Fiduciary responsibility, holding the organisation in trust and ensuring public confidence
- Overall responsibility for the organisation's strategic direction
- Ensure that it meets its legal duties, remains solvent and is well run
- Ensure the organisation delivers its vision, mission, and values

## Trustee person specification

- Integrity
- Commitment to the ethos and values of Emmaus
- Commitment to equal opportunities and the promotion of diversity
- Good independent judgement and a willingness to speak one's mind respectfully
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Willingness to devote the necessary time, enthusiasm, and effort
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of trusteeship
- Ability to evaluate and interpret information and think creatively
- Strategic vision
- Ability to analyse proposals and examine their financial consequences

## Time commitment

- The board meets regularly at The Emporium (based in Hinckley) or via video where required.
- Plus voluntary subgroup meetings and projects according to trustee's interest, experience and availability.

# How to apply

Please email your CV along with a brief covering letter to Dawn Wright, Director at [dawn.wright@emmaus.org.uk](mailto:dawn.wright@emmaus.org.uk)

For an informal chat:  
Dawn Wright, Director – 07761 755518

Please briefly outline in your covering letter:

- why you are interested in joining our organisation
- how your skills would add value to the role
- any other relevant information

## Our location

The Emporium, Stockwell Head, Hinckley LE10 1RG

