



# We're looking for trustees

Sir John Fisher Foundation is looking for up to two new trustees to join its board.

This is an excellent opportunity to join the board of a major local funder in South Cumbria. You will be joining the Foundation at an exciting time as we finalise and launch our new strategy with a renewed commitment to the communities we serve. With this focus, we are particularly interested in new trustees joining us with knowledge of issues facing people in Barrow-in-Furness and the surrounding area.

Being a trustee of Sir John Fisher Foundation is a rare chance to contribute to the community through influencing how charitable funds are distributed. This is an outstanding opportunity for a leader or emerging leader seeking to deepen their knowledge of philanthropy and the charity sector, or to build their skills in strategy, governance and finance.



## About the Foundation

Sir John Fisher Foundation invests in people and organisations that serve needs and grow ambitions in Barrow-in-Furness and the Furness Peninsula. We are a charitable trust (UK registered charity number 277844), established in 1980 by Sir John and Lady Maria Fisher.

The Foundation's focus is community projects in Barrow-in-Furness and the Furness Peninsula, including those which provide opportunities and raise ambitions in the arts, music, education and maritime sectors.

The Foundation donates £1-2m per year with a portfolio of around 75 active grants. We are striving to be a supportive, flexible and open funder, deeply rooted in the local area.

You can find out more about the Foundation on our website: [www.sirjohnfisherfoundation.org.uk](http://www.sirjohnfisherfoundation.org.uk)

## The Role

As a Trustee, your role is to work with other trustees to set our strategic direction, oversee the effective running of the charity and participate in the Foundation's grant-making decisions:

- Assess grant applications
- Attend two full-day board meetings per year, in person, in or near Barrow-in-Furness
- Participate in site visits to applicants and grantees (if availability allows)
- Contribute to planning and implementing the Foundation's strategy
- Oversee the financial sustainability of the trust to fund our grant-making programmes, including our investments, mainly our shareholding in James Fisher & Sons
- Support the Foundation's staff team with the general management of the trust
- Ensure the charity meets its legal obligations as set out by the Charity Commission

We estimate that being a trustee will take 4-8 hours per month, with more hours required to read applications in advance of the board meetings, which are in May and November each year. This is a voluntary role, but expenses will be reimbursed.

## What We're Looking For

We're looking for the following essential skills, knowledge and personal qualities:

- Commitment to the Foundation's objectives and grant-making priorities
- Knowledge of the issues faced by people living and working in our priority area of interest
- A sound understanding of the responsibilities of charity trustees (or willingness to learn)
- Understanding of charity accounts (or willingness to learn)
- Strong strategic and critical thinking skills
- Excellent analytical and decision-making skills
- Personal integrity and humility
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Willingness to devote the time and energy required to their duties as a trustee

Previous board, trustee or grant-making experience is not necessary and we welcome applications from all ages and backgrounds. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our board and we particularly encourage applications from young trustees (age 30 and under), women and people of colour, as we want our board to be representative of our community.

## Find Out More

For our full recruitment pack or for a discussion about the role, please email our Executive Officer, Pippa Smith, on [eo@sirjohnfisherfoundation.org.uk](mailto:eo@sirjohnfisherfoundation.org.uk). We expect to close applications in February 2024.