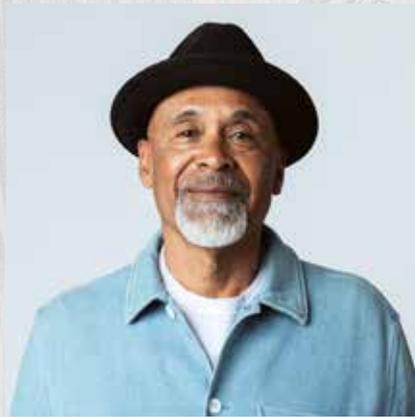




Trustees are #NeverMoreNeeded

Now is the time to join Voscur's Board

Voscur



What is Voscur?

Voscur is the support and development agency for Bristol's Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. By supporting and developing organisations, we help them deliver much needed and impactful frontline services that strengthen and empower local citizens and communities. Increasingly, our work includes close partnership and collaboration with a range of institutions including funders, commissioners and social investors where we aim to build trusting relationships that result in greater investment in the VCSE sector in Bristol.

A dynamic and future focussed 'council for voluntary service' (CVS) we:

- ☑ provide strategic and collaborative **leadership** on behalf of the VCSE in Bristol based on positive dialogue, equality, respect and distributed power;
- ☑ foster the development of trusting relationships between organisations and across sectors and boundaries to achieve shared goals;
- ☑ **broker** (organise and negotiate) in the interests of members and the wider sector;
- ☑ **target** our resources to specific geographical areas and/or communities and universally across the sector in line with our strategic objectives and those for the City;
- ☑ **advocate** on behalf of our members and the wider sector to help reduce and, ultimately, eradicate social and economic inequality;
- ☑ **represent** the view of the VCSE to public bodies and policymakers to help them make informed decisions, design effective services;
- ☑ increase the engagement and participation of all **equalities** groups in our work and in civil society generally.

Voscur facts

- ☐ First established in 1996 (unincorporated)
- ☐ Incorporated 1 February 2000
- ☐ Registered as a charity (1148403) August 2012 and company limited by guarantee (3918210)
- ☐ Members: As at 31 March 2021, our membership comprised 562 members, including 177 groups with an income of less than £10,000 per annum that were supported through free membership.
- ☐ 9 Trustees, including a Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer
- ☐ 6 Board meetings per year; 4 Resource Sub-committees per year
- ☐ 16 employees (equivalent to 12 full-time)
- ☐ Turnover 2020-21 c. £750,000 and many services and projects

What makes a Voscur Trustee?

- ✓ Have you been searching for an opportunity to share and develop your skills, experience, knowledge and connections?
- ✓ Do you want to contribute to the development of a thriving voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector that empowers citizens and communities?
- ✓ Could you help shape future services that support and develop VCSE organisations?

We're seeking skilled and enthusiastic people, from a range of backgrounds and communities, to join our Board of Trustees and help empower, support and develop local community groups, charities and social enterprises.

Could you be a Voscur trustee?

As a Trustee you would work to ensure that the organisation adheres to its charitable objectives which are to:

- ✓ build the capacity of third sector organisations and support their work;
- ✓ facilitate partnership working between third sector, public and any other relevant bodies.

The Voscur Board is made up of organisational members (people involved in Bristol's VCSE organisations) and individual members.



Our current recruitment priorities

At this AGM, we are seeking new organisational members to join a team drawn from our membership bringing varied skills and experience.

Current Trustees and our CEO are very eager to increase diversity within the Voscur Board. Applications are therefore **strongly encouraged** from Black, Asian and other Ethnic communities, people with disabilities, males and non-binary/other genders and young people as these are currently under-represented on our Board.

We are particularly interested in enhancing these skills on our Board:

- ✓ Marketing and PR
- ✓ Digital and technological innovation
- ✓ Financial planning/business development/enterprise

Our achievements in the last year

The past 18 months has been challenging for us, the city, the VCSE sector and the communities we serve. Bristol's VCSE sector has been at the very heart of the city's response to COVID-19 and are now working to help communities and organisations recover from the impact of the pandemic, with higher demand and

increased complexity of needs. At the start of the global pandemic and national 'lockdown' the staff team rose to the challenge of remote working, discovering new ways of working and building new partnerships.

Services to support and assist our members and the wider sector include:

- Hosting a range of online training and learning opportunities – supporting the sector to respond rapidly to COVID-19 related changes
- Providing free learning events and job advertising
- Offering free membership for April and May 2020 for existing members
- Hosting weekly virtual meetings for community groups, COVID-19 community hubs and infrastructure support organisations to facilitate the sharing of intelligence, offers, needs, plans and community information
- Providing regular updates and created a comprehensive directory of COVID-19 resources for individuals, organisations, volunteers and fundraisers
- Supporting the recruitment of COVID-19 volunteers for 'Can Do Bristol' as well creating video briefings giving advice and guidance on safeguarding vulnerable adults and to keep volunteers safe
- Working with VCSE locality anchor organisations, to provide a triage system through the Incident Control Centre (ICC) to support people following hospital discharge and to reduce/prevent hospital admission
- Securing £500,000 of grant funding from the Sport England Tackling Inequalities Fund to help organisations deliver physical activity programmes to a wider range of people and communities



Our future plans and priorities:

Sector sustainability and resilience

As a result of Covid19, the future is now very different. Whilst we remain actively involved in supporting the sector to prepare for the winter and beyond, we are also passionate about supporting the sector to reimagine its future and be in the best possible position to survive the impact of the global pandemic. As part of this, Voscur is working with a range of partners including Bristol City Council, BNSSG CCG, Black South West Network, Locality and Quartet on the development of a new strategic action plan for the sector. The new action plan will be published in 2021 and aims to progress and deliver recommendations from the VCSE research report *Designing a New Social Reality*.

One of the ways in which Voscur has worked to increase sustainability and resilience in the sector is by supporting organisations to diversify their income through, for example, enterprise and trading. As part of this, we have also worked to build knowledge and confidence around social investment and continued to deliver our Kick Start course, to help new social entrepreneurs broaden their knowledge and gain the necessary skills to take their enterprise forward. Through this work, and our continued involvement in initiatives such as Bristol City Funds, we are well placed to continue driving the sector towards greater sustainability.



The role of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees bring their skills and experience so we can develop as a strong organisation that takes care of its resources and people and has high impact. Our Trustees:

- Ensure we deliver our charitable objectives: to support the VCSE sector and to facilitate partnerships
- Participate in Board/subcommittee meetings, general meetings, conferences/events and development sessions
- Receive and approve regular financial reports, and ensure good financial practices
- Contribute to strategic planning and development
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Charity/Companies House registrations
- Regularly review our policies and practices, and act on any new legislation
- Get involved with and/or provide leadership on specific development and initiatives
- Provide guidance on new initiatives and issues affecting the sector

Voscur's Trustees:

- Have strategic vision and thinking
- Demonstrate commitment to the organisation
- Are willing to devote time and effort to the organisation
- Act as an effective advocate for the organisation
- Offer sound, independent opinions and provide good judgement
- Think creatively and inclusively
- Speak their mind and provide constructive input
- Understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of Trusteeship
- Work effectively as a team
- Adhere to the 'Nolan Principles' (the basis of the expected ethical standards) of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

If you are interested in joining but don't feel you have all the skills and experience, please contact Tom Dewey (tomd@voscur.org) who will put you in touch with either our Chair or CEO, both of whom will be pleased to provide further information to help you decide.

What difference will you make at Voscur and what's in it for you?

Our current Trustees' and CEO's words illustrate the difference that Voscur's Trustees make.

"Being a Trustee at Voscur has given me a fantastic insight into the wider VCSE sector and the workings of the city. I have learnt a huge amount, much of which I have been able to use within my own organisation. It has been invaluable to my professional development. I'd really encourage you to apply if you're interested in getting involved."

"I became a Trustee as a passionate advocate for the voluntary sector, with the aim to support Voscur in the changing future landscape for the VCSE and maintain and develop their vital infrastructure role."

"Working with other Trustees from very different backgrounds is really interesting and I am constantly learning from my colleagues."

"Our Trustees are a very generous and committed team. They contribute knowledge from a range of perspectives such as large and small organisations, charities, community groups and social enterprises. Their knowledge, expertise and ability to help grow connections across the sector really complements the operational work of the staff team. They are a highly valued and essential part of the 'jigsaw' that helps us deliver impact year after year. Together we make brilliant things happen and we also have some fun along the way!"

Sandra Meadows, Voscur CEO



How to become a Voscur Trustee

It's simple when you decide to nominate yourself to become a new trustee:

- ❑ Have an informal discussion with our Chair, Lin Whitfield or CEO, Sandra Meadows. Contact Tom Dewey to arrange: tomd@voscur.org or 0117 909 9949.
- ❑ Complete and return the nomination form and your CV to tomd@voscur.org by 5pm on 17th November 2021.
- ❑ Attend the AGM on 25th November 2021 (desirable). Book your place online at <https://www.voscur.org/calendar/event/voscur-agm-0>
 - » Induction of new Trustees will take place after the AGM.
 - » Training and guidance will also be available for new Trustees.

Nominations are included in the papers for the AGM (25th November 2021) and Members are asked to vote to confirm new Trustees. Should the number of nominations exceed the number of Trustees required, additional information about an election process will be provided.

We very much hope you will consider applying to join the Voscur Board and to working with us as we reimagine the sector and work towards a brighter, sustainable future.

Image credits: Unsplash, Freepik, Pexels, Rawpixel.



Voscur, Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4GB

Voscur is a registered charity and a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Company no. 3918210. Charity no. 1148403