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# FUTURE BOARD LEADERS

INTRODUCING NEW VOICES TO IRISH CHARITY BOARDS

2023 BOARD PLACEMENT PROGRAMME



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

**Boardmatch Ireland** and **The Leadership Academy** have developed the **Future Board Leaders Programme** (Pilot Scheme) to promote the engagement of underrepresented voices on boards and encourage charity trustee diversity.

All programme participants will attend preparation sessions, an accredited governance training course, and receive mentoring to support them in their new charity board role.

**There is no cost involved to participate in this programme as a candidate or a charity.**

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If you would like this document in an alternative format for accessibility reasons, please contact Sharon at [sharon@wheel.ie](mailto:sharon@wheel.ie) or Hannah at [hannah@boardmatch.ie](mailto:hannah@boardmatch.ie).

# WHAT IS A CHARITY TRUSTEE?

A charity trustee is also known as a board member of a charity. Charity trustees are volunteers who, as a board, are collectively responsible for the oversight of the charity. Charity trustees meet as a board to support the development of the charity and make decisions on how

the charity will deliver their services, where they will source their funding and how they will communicate their work to the public. The board guides the governance and strategic direction of the charity.

**"CHARITY TRUSTEES ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ULTIMATELY EXERCISE CONTROL OVER, AND ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR, THE CHARITY."**

**THE CHARITIES REGULATOR**

# WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY TO BE A CANDIDATE?

- Create impact - it's an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the charity sector
- It feels good to volunteer - ignite your passion!
- Strengthen and gain new skills
- Share your skills and experience
- Network and meet new people
- Increase your understanding of the boardroom environment

# WHO SHOULD APPLY?

## YOU!

- Would you like to hear different voices represented across Ireland?
- Do you want to see positive change in your community and society?
- Are you a keen volunteer? Would you like to be?
- Would you like to grow your network?
- Do you want to get experience?
- Do you want to learn new skills?
- Do you want to meet new people?

If you fill one of these criteria, please apply.

**DO NOT DISQUALIFY YOURSELF.** Apply and let the process decide.

# HOW WILL IT WORK?

Boardmatch will use their extensive network and expertise to identify a number of suitable charities looking to make real change to their organisations through diversifying their boards.

The Leadership Academy will begin recruiting people interested in joining a Board as a charity trustee.

We also have a limited number of training places for emerging leaders of underrepresented voices who may have recently joined a board, who would like

to learn more or develop a support network at the early stage of their trustee career.

We will connect interested boards with candidates and when we successfully match a Board and candidate, those participants will join the board and attend our co-designed training programme (valued at €150).

***Please note only participants who are successfully matched with a Board will be eligible to attend the programme.***

# WHY SHOULD YOUR CHARITY TAKE PART?

In order for Irish charity boards to be fully representative of their communities and stakeholders, boards should embrace an open board recruitment process, welcoming a wide range of prospective candidates.

The Future Board Leaders Programme will introduce you to a new candidate that you may have not connected with elsewhere. This candidate will be capable, interested in your organisation, and have completed accredited governance training.

**ALL PARTICIPATING CHARITIES MUST FOLLOW A SUPPORTED INDUCTION PROCESS FOR THEIR NEW CHARITY TRUSTEE.**

**ALL PARTICIPATING CHARITIES MUST PROVIDE AN EXISTING TRUSTEE TO MENTOR THEIR NEW TRUSTEE FOR THEIR FIRST YEAR.**

# PROGRAMME TIMELINE

## Matched

Once you're accepted onto the programme, your matching process will begin  
June/July

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- Highlight your experience to date - personal and professional
- Discuss your interests
- Match you to a charity that meets your experience and interests

## Trained

We'll provide you with accredited governance training to prepare you for your board role

12th August and 9th September

2

- Two in-person governance workshops
- Meet the programme participants and start your network
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of charity trustees and how a board operates

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## Inducted

You'll receive a mentor and ongoing support from the programme

October - December

- Your new charity board will support your induction process, providing you with key documents, information about the organisation, and meeting the rest of the team
- You'll be provided a new mentor for your first year on your board. This mentor will also be on your board
- The programme will arrange a follow up online session after your training for additional support and coaching

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# READY TO APPLY?

**Don't rule yourself out!** If you have an interest in participating in this programme, apply below to find out more.

Follow the below links to complete your expression of interest in the programme. You will then be contacted about next steps.

[CANDIDATE  
APPLICATION](#)

[CHARITY  
APPLICATION](#)

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An information webinar for candidates will take place on 6th June (morning) and 8th June (evening). These are provisional dates, so submit your expression of interest to find out more.



## **ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

The Leadership Academy is a project of The Wheel, Ireland's national association of charities, community and voluntary organisations and social enterprises. The Leadership Academy is a space for leaders at all levels in the nonprofit sector, to access relevant upskilling resources, find spaces to engage with other people interested in leadership, learn from those with leadership experience and gain tools and opportunities to take the next step on their leadership journey, wherever their starting point.



## **ABOUT BOARDMATCH IRELAND**

Boardmatch Ireland is a registered charity that works to upskill charity and not-for-profit boards by connecting enthusiastic and skilled volunteers with organisations that have board vacancies. We believe that skills are transferrable across sectors and board volunteering is an opportunity to not only give back to a cause you are passionate about, but at the same time learn new skills and grow your networks. It's a win-win for both the individual and the charity!