

Becoming a Trustee for Amber Trust

Information Sheet

About Amber Trust

Amber Trust, formerly Amber Valley Association for Mental Health Ltd, has been in existence for over thirty years. It is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

Our aim is to provide support for people with mental health problems, enabling them to live full lives in the community rather than institutional settings.

AVAMH has over 20 staff and an annual turnover approaching half a million pounds a year. An Executive Committee – the Trustees – have the legal responsibility for Amber Trust and its work. The Trustees decide the strategic direction and major policy and financial issues and employ staff who undertake the day-to-day work.

Our Current Services

We currently operate two housing related support services, helping people to live independently with good home management skills.

The Accommodation Based Service provides people with a home, their own tenancy and a home and garden maintenance service.

The Floating Support Service is to enable people to access support as needed, perhaps using the service for a few months at a time and being able to return at some time in the future.

We also offer an emergency on-call service to people, allowing them to contact a member of staff when our office is not open.

The Role of a Charity Trustee

Our Trustees, who form the Executive Committee, are responsible for controlling Amber Trust governance. They are responsible for ensuring that the charity's income and property are used for the purposes set out in our governing document (constitution) and for no other purpose.

Trustees have a responsibility to act reasonably and prudently in all matters relating to the charity, and have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the Association.

Above all, our trustees need to work together as a team to ensure the charity is run effectively and efficiently.

We are always keen to recruit new Trustees and bring new skills to the Executive Committee. Meetings for Trustees are held six times per year in the Association offices in the evening.

In addition, we currently have two executive sub-committees (The Service and Clinical Governance committee and the Financial and General Purpose's committee) to which participation is encouraged.

The main tasks of a Trustee are:

- To read the Executive Committee papers
- To attend the executive meetings and play an active role in strategic decision making
- To undertake action in support of Committee decisions as requested
- To contribute areas of particular expertise
- To maintain confidentiality on all issues

Trustees are volunteers, but travel costs and reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

What to do next if you are interested in becoming a trustee.

We recognise that becoming a Trustee can be demanding but we believe that it is also worthwhile. It provides an opportunity for you to share and build your skills, experience and knowledge and to contribute to the wellbeing of the community.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Trustee for Amber Trust then you can contact Kathy Kozlowski (Chief Executive) or John Lowe (Company Secretary).

We can send you an application pack and/or arrange for you to attend meetings as an observer and to meet and talk to our current Trustees.

You are welcome to come in for an informal chat to meet staff and find out more about our work.



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