



Recruitment of Trustees to Developing Healthy Communities

About Us

Who we are

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) is a community-based charity, located in Ebrington Square Derry/L'Derry. Our organisation works across all of Northern Ireland to tackle health inequalities, promote positive mental and physical health, and build stronger, more resilient communities. [Developing Healthy Communities](#)

We began as *Derry Healthy Cities*, part of the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities network. Today, we lead the WHO Healthy City & District initiative for Derry and Strabane, bringing together business, council, health agencies and community organisations to make health a shared civic priority.

It is now widely recognised that only 20% of our health is attributable to statutory health services. The other 80% is determined by a combination of our genetics, our socio-economic status and lifestyle factors. Therefore our focus is on prevention and early intervention, adopting a place-based and joined up approach to seeking to improve the conditions where people can live healthier lives, regardless of income or circumstance.

What we do

We work in partnership across sectors to:

- Support mental health, suicide prevention and physical wellbeing.
- Train and mentor community groups, building capacity at grassroots level.
- Lead place-based initiatives that tackle the wider causes of poor health, such as poverty, food environments, social isolation and lack of safe spaces.
- Advocate for policy change and ensure community voices shape local and regional strategies.

Examples of our work include:

- **WHO Healthy City & District** - convening leaders from business, community, and government to put health at the top of the civic agenda.
- **Western Diabetes Group** – DHC has convened a multi-agency group which has been highlighting rising diabetes rates and piloting community-based pre-diabetes education to help people act early.
- **Whole Systems Approach to Healthier Weight** – working with DCSDC, the PHA, WHSCT, UU and local communities to shifting the focus from “personal blame” to tackling the wider food system, marketing, poverty, and community design.
- **Skeoge Health Inequalities Group** – working with residents and Ulster University in one of the most deprived parts of the city to identify needs and shape targeted solutions.
- **Clear Project** – we administer PHA funding in support of *the PHA's 5 Ways to Wellbeing* ([Take 5 Leaflet 03 25.pdf](#)), promoting positive mental health. For example, in 2024 we supported **85** grassroots community development and mental health and wellbeing projects to be delivered within the DCSDC area, DHC also provided training to 250+ people locally in mental health promotion and suicide

prevention skills. These included Sports Coaches whose organisations also received small amounts of funding for sporting equipment.

- **Families Voices Forum** – is a regional volunteer group of **individuals and families bereaved by suicide** in Northern Ireland which has been operating since **2006**. The forum participates in policy development (e.g. the *Protect Life Strategy* and *Protect Life 2*) and networks with suicide bereavement support groups and related organisations.
- **Workplace health** – over the last 20 years we have supported employers and staff to build healthier workplaces, benefitting hundreds of employees. We continue to provide employee health check and engage employers in health and wellbeing events and training.
- **Acorn Farm** – DHC is a partner on the Council and Community Foundation of NI's Acorn Farm project, which is helping families grow and cook healthy, sustainable food. The project will reach out to over 1000 families over the 5 year lifespan to teach them to grow and cook healthy food.
- **Civic Dollars (launching soon)** – incentivising people to spend more time outdoors by earning "Civic Dollars" which are redeemable with local businesses, linking healthier lifestyles directly to the local economy.
- **SUMIT (Substance Use and IT – launching soon)** – DHC are a partner on the PEACEPLUS-funded project, led by Queen's University with partners including Trinity College Dublin, St Andrews, the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre and Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. SUMIT will support 1,500 people in the Northwest, Belfast and Northeast Ireland with substance use and mental health challenges by giving them digital devices, data, and human support. The goal is to improve access to treatment and self-management, while building digital confidence and trauma-informed approaches across community and voluntary groups.

Role Title (ie Chair, Treasurer, Trustee)

Board Member /Trustee

Role of Trustees

Trustees carry out their governance role throughout the year by meeting on a quarterly basis to review the performance of DHC and to make decisions regarding the charity's financial and operational matters.

Trustees also meet on an ad-hoc basis between quarterly meetings to perform their role on essential governance matters.

The Directors govern the activities of the charitable company in line with the objectives set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association/Constitution.

The DHC Board has from time to time appoint a number of sub-committees that examine specific issues in more detail and then report back to the Board for decision making purposes. Current Sub-Committees include: HR; Finance Communications.



The Board of Trustees is responsible for working with DHC staff to review and outline the organisation's Strategy (set every 3 years).

Attend quarterly Board Meetings with some requirement for additional quarterly, bi-annual or ad-hoc subcommittee meetings

Ad Hoc consultation for specific business need

Profile of Candidates

Trustees are chosen based on skills and professional background, and current members are from, Business and finance, Urban Planning, Academia, Community Health, Sustainability and communications backgrounds.

Preferably with expertise or experience in the following area:

- Statutory/Community Health
- Environment/Climate/Sustainability
- Funding and Income Generation/Business Development
- Legal
- IT
- Comms and Marketing
- Business Development

Approx. Time Commitment (ie Board meetings held quarterly with the option of Sub Committee membership)

- Quarterly Board Meetings (usually held in Holywell Trust, Bishop Street, Derry/L'derry)
- Annual General Meeting
- Optional:
 - Quarterly Audit and Risk Committee, Policy Sub-Groups

Location of DHC

83 Ledwidge Avenue
Ebrington Square
Waterside
Derry/L'Derry
BT47 6GZ

How to apply or seek further info

Please contact:

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Closing Date for Applications
25 th September 2025