



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 (WHO) 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 per cent of our health is attributable to statutory health services. The other 80 per cent 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 brought together 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 'Take 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 (including the *Protect Life* and *Protect Life 2* strategies) 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 Derry and Strabane District Council and Community Foundation 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

Board Member/Trustee

Role of Trustees

Participating in Developing Healthy Communities Board

Below you will find more information on the role of the Developing Healthy Communities Board and Board Members. Developing Healthy Communities Board members are both trustees of our registered charity and Directors of our company limited by guarantee.

We recognise that equity, diversity and inclusion in our work, and amongst our people, are all vital to our success. We believe our people should represent the communities, organisations and individuals we work with and are committed to being an inclusive and great place to work and volunteer.



We want our Board to have a broad spectrum of knowledge, skills and experience and welcome all applications that reflect the diversity of modern society and the communities that we serve.

We commit to providing support and training to our Board members to help them to fulfil their role, and welcome applications from people who have not served on a Board before.

If you have a passion for improving lives in communities through capacity building, connection and the creation of new possibilities then we would love to hear from you.

Meetings and time commitment:

- Board meetings take place approx. 4 times per year, for approximately 2.5 hours
- Board members will be invited to attend annual away days and DHC events.
- Board members will be invited to join sub-committees and task and finish groups
- Remote/virtual attendance at meetings will be facilitated as necessary

Expectations of Board members:

- A passion and commitment to community development and addressing health inequalities.
- Attendance and participation in meetings on a regular basis, and away days and events as able.
- Participation on committees of the Board as able and necessary.
- Representation of DHC vision, values, strategy and policies when performing your responsibilities in the organisation.
- Be alert to community concerns that can be addressed by DHC mission, objectives, and programmes.
- Carry out any tasks you agree to take on.
- Offer to lead if you have special skills.
- Be supportive of the Board and respect confidentiality.
- Act as an external ambassador for DHC when required
- Help communicate and promote DHC mission and programmes to stakeholder and the community.
- Become familiar with DHC finances, budget, and financial/resource needs.
- Understand the policies and procedures of DHC.

In return for your time:

- Opportunity to contribute to DHC's purpose and vision
- Opportunity to expand your professional network
- Gain leadership experience
- Develop new skills
- Receive support and training



Developing Healthy Communities Board

Purpose: To provide the overall governance and leadership for the organisation in progressing the organisation's vision, mission and values and ensure it fulfils its financial and legal responsibilities and promotes best practice.

SUMMARY OF MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Governance** – Ensure that the organisation is effectively and accountably governed.
- **Planning** – Ensure the organisation has a clear sense of direction which is effectively articulated in agreed strategic and operational plans which are effectively implemented and regularly reviewed.
- **Services** – Ensure the organisation provides high quality programmes which meet the needs and expectations of service-users, and the Northern Ireland public generally, and are regularly reviewed.
- **Financial** – Ensure that the organisation's resources are managed prudently and accountably in achieving the aims and objectives of the organisation.
- **Income Generation** – Ensure the organisation generates sufficient income to achieve its aims and objectives.
- **Human Resources** – Ensure the organisation fulfils its responsibilities as a good employer of staff and volunteers
- **Health & Safety** – Ensure that the organisation fulfils its responsibilities for the safety, health and welfare of service-users, volunteers, staff and visitors
- **External Relations** – Ensure there are good relationships with other relevant agencies

Voluntary Board Member Specification

Purpose: To promote the aims, objectives and values of the organisation, and contribute to the good governance of the organisation.

Main Responsibilities

Each Board member agrees:

1. to take part in formulating, and monitoring progress against, the aims and priorities of the organisation;
2. to ensure that adequate policies and practices are in place to protect the organisation from risk and are in keeping with its aims and values;
3. to ensure that the organisation functions within the legal and financial requirements of a charitable organisation and company limited by guarantee and strives to achieve best practice; and
4. to act honestly, in good faith, using reasonable skill and care.

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 (i.e. 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

1st October 2025