

Charity Background

Baron Davenport's Charity is a long-standing Birmingham institution having been established by one of the Davenport brewing family, Baron, in 1930.

He generously endowed the Charity with £20,000 in cash and £80,000 in shares of the brewery which now constitute around £37 million in investments. These funds are professionally managed by Rothschild & Co. We aim to give away £1 million a year and our charitable giving is directed by our governing document as to 30% for hospices and homes for the elderly, 30% for young people and 40% for women in need. The Charity operates within a 60 mile radius of Birmingham Town Hall.

The Charity is run by a small, mainly part time, team of three from offices located in central Birmingham.

We recently united with a much smaller endowed charity with similar objectives, Kate Wilson Oliver, and all administration and grant giving has now been centralised.

Trustee Recruitment

We are looking to recruit two or three new Trustees to manage succession and further develop the range of expertise on our Board of eight Trustees. Interested candidates should be able to demonstrate empathy for the objectives of the Charity and the intellect, experience and strategic capability to help develop the Charity in the future. Trustees have responsibility for directing the affairs of the Charity, ensuring that it is well-run and delivering the charitable objectives in accordance with its governing documents.

Three Trustees with backgrounds in investment management, accountancy and welfare/social work/healthcare are planning to step down at the end of 2024 so applicants with this experience would be welcomed. The other Trustees have backgrounds in law, finance, business management and charity fundraising so applicants with different experience would also be welcomed, particularly those with experience of supporting disadvantaged individuals.

Nothing is more important than the right skills and attributes within the Trustee body and the most appropriate applicant will always be appointed. The Board welcomes applications from all ethnicities and is particularly keen to broaden its diversity.

The post of Trustee is unremunerated but reimbursement is made for all reasonable out of pocket expenses in the discharge of Trustee duties.

Trustees are expected to attend a minimum of five full meetings per year: a strategy meeting in January, two meetings in the Spring and two in the Autumn. The first of each of the Spring and Autumn meetings involves the distribution of funds and the second reviewing investment performance with the investment managers. Generally, these meetings take place in the morning from 9.30 to 1.00 in the centre of Birmingham. In addition, Trustees are expected to make a number of visits to beneficiary organisations each year.

Trustee Role Description

Trustees have and must accept ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the Charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up. There are three core statutory duties: Compliance, Prudence and Care.

The Charity is in the process of converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and appointment is likely to be to the CIO. Trustees are appointed for five years initially, renewable for two further five year terms of office.

Trustee Person Specification

Trustees need the following core skills

- An ability to think strategically
- An ability to analyse details and extract key issues
- Confidence to participate in rigorous debate and be willing to challenge fellow Trustees
- Independent judgment
- Being able to work well in a team

Process for Recruitment

- Candidates will be asked to email a CV and a brief covering statement to the Chair at wcolacicchi@barondavenportcharity.org detailing why they are interested in becoming a Trustee and what they can offer to the Charity, together with the name of two referees
- Interviews will take place at the Charity's offices with at least two Trustees and the Charity Administrator in attendance
- Final decisions will be made by Trustees subject to take up of references
- Appointments will then become effective following the return of compliance and acceptance documentation