



## **Becoming a board member of IRISi**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a board member of IRISi.

### **Who are we?**

**IRISi** is an award-winning social enterprise established to promote and improve the health care response to gender based violence. IRISi's flagship programme is IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety), a general practice based domestic abuse (DA) training, support, and referral programme. The organisation supports the local commissioning, implementation, maintenance, and growth of the IRIS programme. IRISi's work also includes bid development, training for trainers, ongoing support, national analysis, and monitoring. IRISi collaborates with partners to develop innovative, evidence-based health interventions for those affected by gender based violence and offers expert advice and consultancy in the field of domestic abuse and health.

**Our Vision** is a world in which gender based violence is consistently recognised and addressed as a health issue.

**Our Mission** is to improve the healthcare response to gender based violence through health and specialist services working together.

We are a second-tier organisation, usually providing services and support to other organisations, rather than delivering front-line services.

For more information on IRISi and the IRIS programme see [www.iris.org](http://www.iris.org).

### **What is a board member?**

Board members are people entrusted to ensure that an organisation works in the best interests of its mission, staff, and beneficiaries. IRISi is a not-for-profit social enterprise and a company limited by guarantee. Board members are ultimately responsible for everything the organisation does and must act in the interests of the organisation and not themselves.

### **What are the roles and responsibilities of an IRISi board member?**

IRISi's Board is currently made up of three people and we are looking to recruit further board members.

The main responsibilities of an IRISi board member are to ensure that:

- IRISi has a clear vision, mission, and values and that it develops a clear strategy with measurable objectives.
- IRISi works to and complies with its governing document (our Articles of Association).
- IRISi has policies and employment procedures that are up to date, meet statutory requirements and are fit for purpose.



- IRISi operates in an accountable, transparent manner and that it always complies with the law.
- IRISi finances are well managed and that funding is spent according to funder requirements.
- IRISi has appropriate staff, and that the Chief Executive is managed and supported.
- IRISi's Board remains effective.
- IRISi and its work are promoted.

### **Why become an IRISi board member?**

Being an IRISi board member will bring you the following opportunities:

- To use your skills and experience to make a difference, working to prevent domestic violence and abuse and helping to ensure that the needs of survivors are met.
- To meet new people, develop new contacts, and learn about the not-for-profit sector.
- To enhance your CV.

### **What skills are needed?**

We are looking for board members with all the following:

- ✓ A commitment to helping IRISi achieve its objectives including a world in which gender-based violence is consistently recognised and addressed as a health issue.
- ✓ An understanding of the impact of violence and abuse on the lives of women and girls.
- ✓ A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort, including preparing for meetings, attending meetings, and responding to correspondence.
- ✓ An ability to evaluate and interpret information.
- ✓ A willingness to learn and maximise personal development.
- ✓ Good independent judgement and the ability to express constructive opinions.
- ✓ An ability to think creatively in a problem solving/ strategic way.
- ✓ A willingness to accept the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of being a board member.
- ✓ An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- ✓ Objectivity, accountability, openness, and honesty.
- ✓ A commitment to equal opportunities and the promotion of diversity.

### **Current experience and equalities priorities**

We are an inclusive organisation, committed to ensuring our Board and staff team reflect the diversity of the people we serve. We warmly encourage applications from individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, from younger adults and across all the protected characteristics.

- Experience gained through personal or work life that may be relevant to IRISi's work, including being a survivor and/or working in the field.
- People with:



- Financial knowledge and experience – especially in relation to budget development and management.
- Knowledge and experience of commissioning services within the local government sector.
- Strategic experience of the health service in terms of decision making and commissioning.
- Marketing and communications experience.

### **How much time will it take?**

Currently, IRISi's Board meets once every two months and board meetings generally last for two hours. Board meetings are held either at the IRISi office in central Bristol or remotely via zoom, always on a weekday and usually in the afternoon. The Board may also meet for occasional additional meetings in-between Board meetings. Communication with Board members outside of meetings is usually by email.

### **Who is eligible to be a board member?**

To be a board member you must be able to manage and administer your own affairs. A very few people are disqualified from being a board member, including people who have unspent convictions relating to deception or dishonesty, undischarged bankrupts, those previously removed or disqualified from being trustees or company directors and people who are disqualified under the Protection of Vulnerable Adults List.

Before becoming an IRISi board member, you will be required to sign a standard declaration of eligibility and to consent to us undertaking a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. If you become a board member we will inform Companies House of your appointment.

### **What support will IRISi offer to new board members?**

We welcome applications from first-time board members. New board members will be given a full induction and ongoing support will be available from the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive. Board members are welcome to book to attend IRISi's training course and we will highlight other training opportunities as and when they arise.

We provide expenses for travel, subsistence and childcare as needed to ensure everyone is able to fulfil their Board role regardless of income.

### **Further information**

- For more information about IRISi, please look at our website [www.irisi.org](http://www.irisi.org).
- If you have any questions, please contact us on [info@irisi.org](mailto:info@irisi.org).
- To apply to become an IRISi board member please return the following application form by 12<sup>th</sup> of February.