



Chair of Trustees - Role Description

Purpose

The Chair will provide strategic leadership to the Board of Trustees during a period of organisational transition and financial pressure, ensuring IRISi remains financially resilient, strategically focused and positioned for long-term sustainability.

The Chair will lead the board in fulfilling its legal duties while actively supporting the Chief Executive in strengthening financial resilience, programme impact, national positioning and organisational stability.

Primary Accountabilities

Strategic Leadership

- Ensure the board maintains a clear strategic focus aligned to IRISi's priorities for 2026 and beyond
- Ensure board discussions remain forward-looking, focused and outcome-oriented
- Facilitate disciplined and timely decision-making, particularly where difficult trade-offs are required

Expected Outcome

- IRISi's strategy is supported and enabled by a cohesive board providing practical expertise and constructive challenge.

Credibility and Financial Oversight

- Ensure robust oversight of financial sustainability and organisational risk
- Work closely with the Treasurer to monitor financial performance, forecasts and cash flow
- Ensure financial scenarios and risk mitigation plans are clearly understood by trustees
- Lead the board response to financial stress or funding risks
- Ensure compliance with Charity Commission and legal duties

Expected Outcome

- The board has clear financial visibility and is able to respond proactively to financial risks.

External Ambassador and Network Leverage

- Act as a visible and credible ambassador for IRISi nationally
- Strengthen relationships with NHS leaders, funders, policymakers and sector partners
- Open doors to potential funding and partnership opportunities
- Enhance IRISi's reputation and profile in relevant national forums

Expected Outcome

- Stronger strategic partnerships, an improved funding pipeline and increased national visibility.

Board Effectiveness and Governance

- Ensure trustees are clear on expectations, responsibilities and ways of working
- Foster a culture of accountability, challenge and mutual respect



- Promote diversity, representation and inclusion on the board
- Lead the board renewal process and support recruitment of new trustees
- Oversee periodic board evaluation and development

Expected Outcome

- A high-performing, diverse board operating strategically and cohesively.

Chief Executive Support and Accountability

- Build a strong, trusting relationship with the Chief Executive
- Provide regular support, guidance and constructive challenge
- Ensure Chief Executive objectives are aligned to organisational priorities
- Lead the Chief Executive appraisal process
- Ensure the Chief Executive has appropriate wellbeing support

Expected Outcome

- A supported and accountable Chief Executive delivering against agreed strategic and financial priorities.

Time Commitment

- Approximately 2–3 days per month on average.
- Attendance at all board meetings (plus pre-reads and preparation).
- Monthly 1:1 meeting with the Chief Executive.

Additional time may be required for:

- Strategic planning sessions
- Trustee recruitment
- Key external stakeholder engagement
- Periods of heightened financial risk

During the first 12 months of transition, the time commitment may temporarily increase.

Term of Appointment

- Commencing summer 2026 with an initial term of 3 years, eligible for renewal subject to board review.