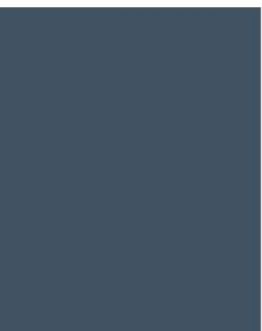




Services For Education

TRUSTEE/BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION PACK

January 2025



Welcome

Many thanks for your interest in joining us as a volunteer Trustee and Board member. As a company limited by guarantee and registered at Companies House, our Trustees are also listed as Directors.

We are an award-winning provider of specialist services to schools in the West Midlands. Our activities include our highly successful peripatetic schools Music Service as well as offering services in health education, raising standards in learning and assessment, and school leadership team development. Originally part of Birmingham City Council, we were established as a charity in our own right in September 2013 and we have developed a strong reputation for excellence and high quality provision. We know that our services make a huge difference to people's lives and we know there is much more we can do to extend our reach and impact.

In May 2024 we were appointed by Arts Council England as one of 43 new Music Hub Lead Organisations in England as part of a national programme to provide high-quality music education for all children and young people. This is great news for us and Birmingham, and a reflection of the tremendous efforts made by all our staff.

You can read more about our achievements in 2024 in our [Annual Review](#) . None of these would have been achievable without the enthusiasm and continuing commitment of our staff, trustees, stakeholders and, of course, our donors and funders including Arts Council England.

The Board plays a key role in supporting and challenging our Senior Leadership Team to develop and deliver our strategic plans, so we are seeking enthusiastic and passionate Trustees to help shape these discussions and ensure our continued success into the future. If this might be you, then we would welcome your application.

Martin Hall

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Background

Services For Education is a key organisation within the educational landscape, primarily within Birmingham and increasingly further afield.

As the Hub Lead Organisation for Birmingham, we are part of a network of 43 Hubs responsible for delivering a high-quality music education to young people across England. Along with our valued Hub partners, we deliver in more than 470 schools, to over 32,000 young people each year. Our 113 ensembles provide a diverse range of opportunities for pupils to take their learning to the next level and perform in prestigious venues such as the Birmingham Symphony Hall. At the heart of our approach, is a belief that learning an instrument or singing should be open to all. Thanks to funding from Arts Council England, participation in our ensembles is free for everyone. Our work extends to specialist settings and retirement villages, demonstrating that music education is relevant at every age and stage of life.

Our School Support Service works alongside schools in the City and beyond, to improve practice and ensure teachers are best equipped to respond to developments in curriculum and policy. Our talented colleagues work closely with schools in a variety of different situations – from those with an urgent need to improve quality and standards – to those wanting to embrace best practice. As the leading provider for safeguarding education in Birmingham schools, we have regular contact with over 400 schools delivering training to whole staff groups, Designated Safeguarding Leads, and Governors. The service places an emphasis on the development of the whole pupil and works to support physical and emotional health of children and young people through the Health for Life programme.

Currently, our main customer base is comprised of schools and we are mindful that schools face multiple demands on limited budgets – as such we will always seek innovative funding structures for our delivery, in order to enable the greatest impact. We pride ourselves in being distinctive in our approach and holding a strong reputation for excellence in quality.



Through Services For Education, I was able to have free instrumental tuition, free instrument loans and access to free coached ensembles ranging from their Big Band through to their Symphony Orchestra. They equipped me with all the tuition and tools that I needed throughout my 10 years with them completely free of charge. Music education can be a life changer and a lifesaver; it can level the playing field and provide people with the skills they will need to tackle an increasing challenging and demanding work place.

Xhosa Cole – Former Ensembles Member and Winner of BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year 2018

Our Vision and Mission

SFE is a unique charity that uses the power of learning and of music to transform and enhance the lives of children, young people, adults, and our wider communities.

We bring learning and music to life.

Our work encompasses a broad range of settings, including:

- Teaching pupils learning vocal and traditional instruments – to build technical and performance skills alongside confidence and creativity, and encourage pursuit of music-based careers
- Teaching non-traditional instruments and/or musical styles – to raise the profile of these approaches and encourage the expansion and diversification of musical experiences
- Specialist work with SEND/disadvantaged groups – to increase engagement and attainment
- Specialist work with Early Year settings – to promote a positive start to life and learning
- Our Music School – to support lifelong learning and encourage the love of music amongst young people and adults
- Working with the elderly – to promote wellbeing and positive mental health in later life
- Bespoke consultancy, advice and professional development programmes – enabling school leaders, educators and governors to raise attainment levels, and develop and implement initiatives that improve health, wellbeing, standards and outcomes to ensure for all children and young people realise their full potential academically, physically and emotionally.
- To enable schools, wider educational settings, and those organisations working with children and young people to develop safeguarding policy and practice that ensures the needs of all are recognised and met efficiently and effectively.
- Support, guidance, and development activities to those in the earliest stages of their teaching career in order to enable them to become highly skilled, leading-edge practitioners.

Our Values

Our values are extremely important to us as these underpin our vision and mission:



Impact and People

For over 50 years, Services For Education has been providing services which enhance the lives of the people in Birmingham and beyond. It is our focus on impact which drives our work and the graphic below shows some of our key facts and figures from this year:



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After training in DSL across three local authorities and different providers, this is by far the best training I've been to!

It is excellent. The trainers are not regurgitating the legal documents. It's hands on and practical with real on the ground "walk-through" advice of processes and forms.

Excellent. Absolutely excellent.

Beverley Walker-Gordon – Headteacher – The Orchards Primary Academy, Greenheart Learning Partnership

Our Governance

As a charity, our executive leadership team are overseen by a Board of Trustees, the current trustees are:

Martin Hall (Chair) – 33 years in the corporate insurance broking sector until 2022, Martin now runs a consultancy which works directly with corporate clients to leverage their broker/insurer relationships. Martin sits on the board of small tech-based businesses, is Chair of Governors for a Primary School, Executive Committee Member of Lichfield & Tamworth Chamber of Commerce, an Enterprise Adviser to secondary schools in Tamworth and an Ambassador for We are Staffordshire.

David Bolton (Deputy Chair) – trained with a Birmingham accountancy practice and now works for the world's largest cash machine deployer with internationally based teams. David's three children have learned brass instruments through Services For Education.

Sarah Smith – Director of Education for the Diocese of Birmingham and a former head teacher .

Clive Stone DL – currently Clive is CEO of Professional Services company and former Chairman and CEO of a leading Midlands' catering and events company. Clive is also a Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands.

Joanna Cooney – who grew up in the West Midlands and is a solicitor at Irwin Mitchell. Since joining Irwin Mitchell, first as a paralegal, Joanna has worked for several years within the employment team where she developed my interest in employment law issues in the education sector. During this time she supported numerous educational clients on a range of employment issues.

Dr Peter Borg-Bartolo - is the current Chair of The Lunar Society. After a wide-ranging career in medicine, including 34-years as a general practitioner in Birmingham, he is now Senior Clinical Mentor with NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board (ICB) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Dr Jory Debenham - has worked in music education for more than 25 years as a private instrumental teacher, examiner and university lecturer, alongside roles in corporate communications, investor relations and government policy. She is currently Head of Special Projects in the Floods and Water Directorate at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – as well as remaining a committed private instrumental teacher.

Shimri Vachter – Shimri is an experienced Strategy Board Member and a Senior Director in the realms of Cyber, AI and Automation.

Role Profile – Trustee/Board Member

- **Birmingham based, not for profit organisation**
- **Voluntary role, expenses only**
- **An initial term of 3 years**

Desired Skills and Experience:

We are seeking commercially minded professionals who can add tangible value and have the gravitas to influence, challenge and support senior decision makers during the next period of our Strategy.

SFE is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community and welcome applications from all backgrounds. Prior experience does not need to have been gained from within the charitable sector, but a passion for seeing lives transformed through education is essential.

We would particularly welcome applications from individuals with experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Experience of working at senior or Board level, providing strategic leadership during times of change
- Primary or Secondary school headship experience (ideally a current HT), or senior leadership within a Multi Academy Trust
- Entrepreneurial experience
- Safeguarding
- Experience gained from working in the Arts and Cultural Sector

Time Commitment:

Successful candidates would be required to commit to regular attendance at virtual Board Meetings (usually 6 Monday evening meetings per year lasting up to 2 hours, with dates fixed at the start of the academic year) and occasional meetings with members of the Senior Leadership Team as appropriate. Our governance structure includes three (virtual) sub committees (1. Finance and Audit, 2. Hub Lead Organisation Board and 3. Remuneration Committee). Several of our Trustees sit on one of these sub committees (according to their area of interest and/or expertise) – two or three meetings per year, diarised in accordance with Trustees' availability.

Our intention in the future would be to introduce one 'in person' twilight session per year.

Our work 'comes to life' through our annual programme of events such as the Festive Concerts and the Youth Proms at the Birmingham Symphony Hall. Trustees are warmly welcomed to such events during the year and their attendance is encouraged.

Application Process

If this sounds like the role for you, to find out more about Services For Education and our activities please visit www.servicesforeducation.co.uk.

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter to Lindsay Allen, HR Director lindsay.allen@servicesforeducation.co.uk by close of business on Friday 31 January 2025.

We will invite shortlisted candidates to a virtual discussion with two Trustees, including our Chair, and our Chief Executive. When you receive the invitation, we will indicate the areas which we would like to explore with you during that discussion to help you prepare.

Services For Education

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& Wales No. 07739831

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