



Jesite's  fund
MUSIC HELPING CHILDREN

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK

Welcome....!



The most effective organisations stay light on their feet, and are aware of the need to constantly renew themselves. Jessie's Fund, whose vital and creative work is described below, is no different. We're looking for new Trustees to join our Board to increase our skill set and range of knowledge and life experiences.

We're particularly keen on finding people with financial or marketing and fundraising expertise who could help us in our small but active role of supporting this wonderful charity. We are also keen to look more like the nations in which we work - to become more diverse, in all dimensions of that word, to the extent that that's possible on a small Board.

If you've got as far as reading this, you might have a role to play in this process. Please read the rest of this pack, and if, after doing so, you think this might be for you, do think about applying to join us. If you're selected, you're sure of a warm and happy welcome!

Thank you.

Steven Burkeman
Chair of Trustees





About Us

Jessie's Fund is a UK charity helping children with life-limiting illness or special educational needs and disabilities to communicate through music. We are looking for new Trustees to help guide us in our work and strategic vision as we move into our 30th year and beyond.

Jessie's Story

Jessica George was lively, bright and musical, and just nine years old when she was diagnosed with a rare and inoperable brain tumour in December 1993. The prognosis was very poor, but there was some hope offered by complementary treatment available in the U.S. Jessie's Fund was established to meet the cost of this treatment and was named by Jessie herself, but she died in May 1994 before managing to travel to the States - less than six months after her diagnosis.

Jessie's parents, musicians Lesley Schatzberger and Alan George, decided that Jessie's Fund should become a charity dedicated to helping seriously ill and disabled children through the creative and therapeutic use of music. It was registered as such in 1995. Based in York, Jessie's Fund helps children all over the UK.

Our Mission

Communication is one of the most basic needs of everyone. There are many children who have communication difficulties and some have no means of communication at all. Music can provide a powerful and profound way in which they can express themselves and connect with the world around them.



Our mission is:

- To enable children in children's hospices and hospitals in the UK to access music therapy, by establishing posts for music therapists and providing appropriate musical instruments;
- To help children in specialist school settings to participate in creative musical activities, by offering the expertise of specialist professional musicians;
- To train staff working with children who have complex medical needs or special educational needs and disabilities to use music as a tool for learning and communication.

What We Do

Jessie's Fund's work falls into five strands:

1. Establishing and supporting music therapy posts in children's hospices;
2. Training for staff in using music with children with additional needs;
3. Our programme of workshops and training in specialist school settings and respite centres;
4. Promoting music therapy and interactive music-making for children in hospitals;
5. A grants programme helping families and organisations to access music therapy.

Our Achievements

When Jessie's Fund started in 1995...

- There were eight children's hospices in the UK;
- None had experienced music therapy;
- There were no courses in using music for communication specifically with life-limited children;
- There was no charity dedicated to helping ill and disabled children through the creative and therapeutic use of music.

Now...

- There are approximately 54 children's hospice services and we have provided musical instruments for almost all of them;
- 44 have established posts for music therapists with our help;
- We have trained about 700 people in how to use music on our 'Making Music with Special Children' courses;
- We have funded or part-funded over 10,000 music therapy sessions with children in the community;
- We have worked in about 260 school settings for children with special needs through our nationwide interactive music programme, reaching over 12,000 children;
- We have given nearly 300 grants to organisations to bring therapeutic benefits of music to the children with whom they work;
- Just three years after our inception we were awarded the Guardian Jerwood Award for Community Achievement. We won the DSC Social Change Great Grant Giving Funders Award 2010. In 2012 we won the TalkTalk Digital Heroes Award, and in 2014 a Yorkshire Children of Courage Award. In 2016 we were a selected charity of Global's Make Some Noise.

More information can be found on our website: www.jessiesfund.org.uk
and you can see examples of our work here:

<https://tinyurl.com/JessiesFundVideos>



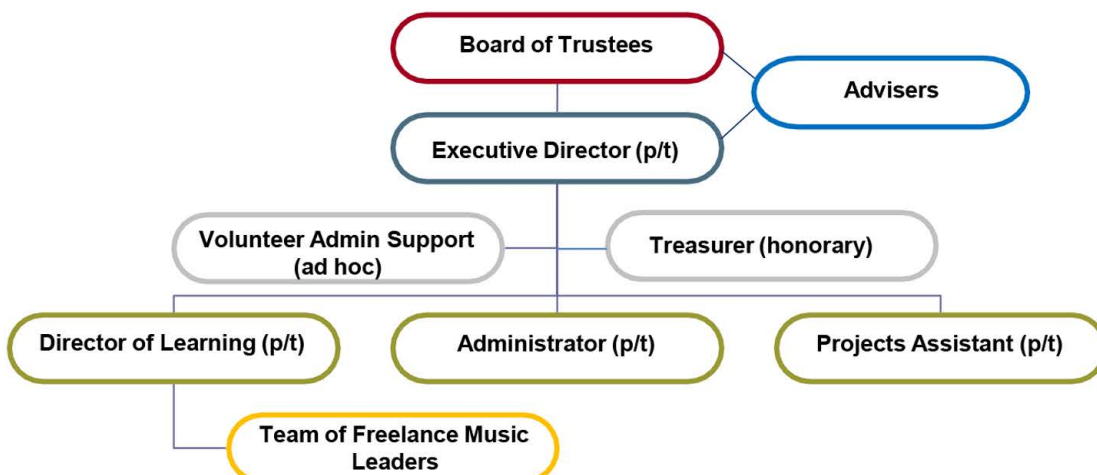


Quote from parent:

“A massive thank you for the work that you do and enabling children like my son to access such needed therapy. I can’t express in words how far my son has come on and music therapy has played a massive part in this. He never used to make eye contact and joint attention/ interaction was minimal. His therapies, combined along with music weekly has had a massive impact on us all as a family and he is now beginning to use single words!”

Governance/ staffing structure

Jessie’s Fund has a skilled and dedicated core staff team who manage a pool of experienced musicians and music leaders. The team are able to call on the expertise of our founder who is still actively involved in guiding and supporting the charity. It is governed by a board of trustees with expertise across a wide range of backgrounds, as well as two additional advisers and an honorary treasurer.





Trustee Role

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of Jessie's Fund, developing the organisation's aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines.

Our team is small and needs the support of an active Board. We would like Trustees who can use their skills in a hands-on way as well as part of strategic work.

Desirable Skills and Attributes

We're looking to expand our Board of Trustees, to bring in different people with skills and experience to complement our present team. It doesn't matter if you've not been a charity Trustee before; what's more important is the skills and experience Trustees bring to the Board.

Areas in which we would welcome more expertise are:

- Finance/ Accounting
- Fundraising
- Networking, particularly with influential individuals
- Digital/ social media/ IT skills



We're committed to developing more diverse representation on our Board and for our Trustees to reflect the community we engage with through our work. We're keen to hear from disabled people, neurodiverse people, people under 40, and majority ethnic people.

Quote from current Trustee:

"Joining the team of Jessie's Fund Trustees has been a really rewarding experience for me. I've gained as much as I've given! Not only have I met and learned from a group of new and interesting people, but have also enjoyed working in a different field from my normal job. To know that through Jessie's Fund work, music might improve a child's day and cause a smile, is a complete privilege and worth a few hours of my time."



Principle Responsibilities as a Trustee

- To contribute to the vision, mission and objectives of Jessie's Fund and ensure that its values are reflected in all of its activities;
- To see that Jessie's Fund is operating within the constraints of the law and is abiding by its objectives and constitution;
- To participate in the appointment of key staff of the charity;
- To be satisfied that within the constraints of resources, the charity is meeting its aims;
- To oversee and review financial management and budgets;
- To be involved in regular policy reviews;
- To advocate and be an ambassador for the work of Jessie's Fund;
- To contribute to the ongoing fundraising activity of the charity;
- To ensure that all Trustee responsibilities delegated to staff and members of the charity are carried out;
- To ensure the charity aspires to achieving best practice at all times.



Terms of Trusteeship

There are currently seven Trustees whose term of office is five years, and it is possible to be re-elected after the first term of office. Board meetings are normally held three times a year, and last about two hours. Currently, one meeting is held in person in York, another in London and the other is virtual.

Trustees must always act in the best interests of Jessie's Fund. The Trustee role is an unpaid voluntary role, but any out-of-pocket expenses including travel are paid by the charity. Training events for Board members are available and encouraged, and would be funded by the charity.

Trustees need to declare any interests which may result in conflict while they are serving on the Board.





How to Apply

Please send a covering letter and CV by **5th October 2023** to:

info@jessiesfund.org.uk

Recruitment Process

We aim to conduct interviews in the last two weeks of October; these will be online, or in-person for those local to the York area.

We hope any newly appointed trustees will be available to join our AGM and trustee meeting on 16th November in York from 1.30pm – 4.45pm.



Jessie's Fund, 15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET

Registered Charity: 1045731

Patrons: Maxine Peake and Trevor Pinnock

01904 658189 ♦ info@jessiesfund.org.uk ♦ www.jessiesfund.org.uk