

Grief support for children
and young people in
Swindon & Wiltshire
Registered charity 1159719



Volunteer Trustee Roles

Our Mission...

At Wiltshire Treehouse, we believe every child and young person should have access to support during their grieving process. We enable those in our local communities to improve the coping strategies, skills and confidence needed to better manage daily life.

The Need for Wiltshire Treehouse...

In the UK alone, a parent of a child dies every 22 minutes; that's around 23,600 deaths a year and equates to around **111 children bereaved of a parent every day**. **5% of children** will have **experienced the death of a parent** or sibling by the time they are 16, while **92% will lose someone important** to them. At any one time, around 70% of schools have a bereaved pupil in their care.

The numbers of children & young people we support has increased greatly since the impacts of covid and lockdown and the charity continue to expand on delivery each year. In addition, since 2019 there has been an 800% increase in the number of children and young people locally who have been **negatively affected after a death by suicide**. As an organisation we feel that lockdown and covid restrictions have had a marked impact upon beneficiaries, and we continue to provide flexible support services to meet this need.

The Difference we Make...

Wiltshire Treehouse are committed to providing robust high-quality programmes and support to the vulnerable children, young people, and families we serve. Using age-appropriate group work, we support individuals to improve their emotional literacy and understanding of their own grief. Learn coping strategies that can be implemented throughout their lives and ensure a lasting connection with the deceased. Children & young people regularly report increased confidence, self-esteem, and overall resilience following our support.

"I enjoyed making my support tree because it showed me how many people I have around me who care for me."

In addition, the charity also provides several training options for anyone working with children and young people. Our aim is to improve the initial reactions of professionals and make best use of existing support networks, with the hopes that the grief can be better managed by individuals.

What are we looking for?

Following a period of growth and development Wiltshire Treehouse are moving into a new phase. We continue to provide our mission to a high standard but are ready to take the next steps. We seek passionate and dedicated individuals to join our board of Trustees that will help steer the charity on our journey.

Working with a small but fantastic team of paid staff and skilled Trustees, you will help move the charity forward, whilst ensuring we remain true to our mission. Each of our Trustees take on an active role within the organisation, with responsibility for a key area of knowledge, expertise, and experience, be that IT, Safeguarding, marketing etc. Meetings take place every 6 weeks and can be attended in person or virtually, with a commitment to attend over 80% of meetings held within the year. You must also be willing to attend at least 2 in-person events, supporting our fundraising and community engagement events throughout the year. In addition, there will be an induction process, where you can observe our work with children and families and meet our directors, ensuring you are fully briefed within our organisational aims, methods, and ethos.

We have a variety of positions available from those with a business/corporate or charitable background. Whilst the board has a team of dedicated volunteers, we particularly seek the following areas of expertise. (Please note: You do not need to be able to fulfil all elements within the role to make an application):

PR Marketing & Fundraising: You may be a fundraiser for a charity or manage fundraising as part of your corporate social responsibility. Perhaps you come from a marketing background? If you are energetic, can think outside the box and have the time and passion to help drive our charities fundraising efforts, we want you to:

- Energise volunteers and trustees to undertake or oversee a coordinated range of community fundraising initiatives.
- Work with our Business Director, develop and implement the marketing plan for Wiltshire Treehouse.
- Assist the charity with introduction to potential corporate sponsorships and support.

Service Delivery Support: Are you an experienced service director, headteacher, charity director or similar from a private or local authority provider? We seek an experienced and knowledgeable individual to help:

- Line manage Service Director by providing supervision and appraisal within the year.
- Provide guidance to service development and charity growth.
- Working with our directors to assist with service evaluation and quality assurance of the organisation.

IT & Cyber Security: Do you have a passion for computer technology, are you a guru when it comes to applications or operating systems? We seek a professional individual to support the charity within IT, data protection and to ensure we are following best practice within cyber security. Can you help us with the following:

- Advice and guidance as to best practice within IT and cyber security.
- IT support, help with managing best set-up of laptops, ad hoc throughout the year.
- Working with our directors to ensure our policy and practice is reflective of current best practice.

Practical Considerations: Anyone holding a trustee role must be available to attend meetings at our base in Swindon or virtually. On success within a role there is the expectation that you will complete training within Safeguarding and become familiar with the charity and our policies within a 6-month period. Therefore, ability to travel to Swindon and meet with the team would be of benefit to the successful candidate.

What we can offer: Volunteer opportunities that suit your skills, interests, and the time you can spare. A friendly supportive environment in which to do very rewarding and much needed work. The chance to develop new skills. High quality training, both in-house and through our partnership with the national charity Child Bereavement UK and Child Bereavement Network. The chance to make a real difference to the local children, young people, and families.

**If you would like further information on these roles, please contact us at
admin@wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk.**