



Unit 12, Road Two, Winsford Industrial Estate, Winsford CW7 3QL

---

## **Candidate Information Pack - Trustee Recruitment 2021**

### **Thank you for your interest**

Changing Lives Together is a Cheshire based Social Enterprise and Charity. We are here to help the people of Cheshire and Warrington. We provide a range of services and volunteering opportunities for all kinds of people...and we try to do our bit for the environment too.

We make no judgements about those who use our services.

We are Social Enterprise in that we reinvest in the community and in the people who work or volunteer for us. Where we can we use our training and employment opportunities to develop skills and help people get a leg on, or up, the employment ladder.

We have a current board of six trustees. The chair is stepping down in December 2021.

We are seeking to appoint several new trustees with a range of skills and backgrounds. We are looking for colleagues who can facilitate change, provide strategic insight, review/develop plans for new initiatives, support the continuing work of our current services and/or help us closely understand the needs of users.

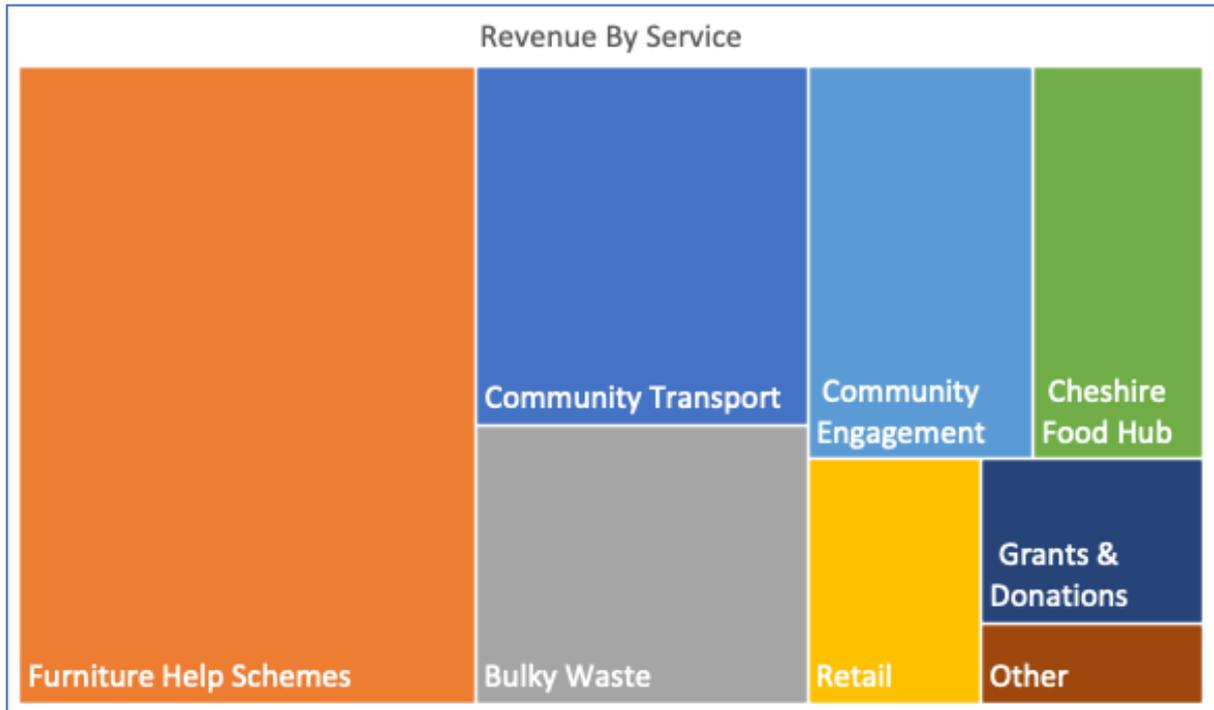
### **About Us**

We are often perceived as a charity that sells new and preloved furniture and white goods direct to the public. We do.

Nevertheless, as you can see on [www.changing-lives-together.org.uk](http://www.changing-lives-together.org.uk) we also provide many other services, targeted to community needs. These are supported by long term contracts with Local Government and Housing Associations or by Grant Awards.

We know we have no right to exist and in an ideal world we would not. However, we will use our skills and resources to help our communities where we can.

We have modest reserves and so must watch both the pounds and the pennies. Even so, from time to time we will use our own money to back a community service when others cannot.



**What we do - Affordable furniture and white goods to people on a tight budget**

We sell direct to the public and provide core items through contracts - to help people who have been rehoused or are living in accommodation without the basics.

We repair and recycle what we can in our woodwork and electrical workshops. We always carry stock of affordable new or preloved Beds, Cookers, Fridges, Sofas, Tables, Chairs and Paint.

We source where we can from public donations, industry partnerships with major retailers, Household Waste Recycling Centres and collections of domestic bulky waste and small business WEEE.

We operate a large warehouse, several shops, and a small fleet of vans.

**What we do - Buddying & Befriending for people who are isolated at home**

There are many people in the UK over the age of 50 who are experiencing loneliness or social isolation, and the coronavirus pandemic has not helped. There is strong evidence that reducing loneliness helps both physical and mental health. That in turn reduces the workload of community health and social care services. So, our lonely “befriendeds” are generally referred to us by healthcare professionals.

Our “befrienders” are all volunteers. They contact their buddy with a visit, telephone call or on-line chat once or twice a week. Sometimes they go further and assist with shopping or collecting medicines etc. if that suits everyone. Often the buddies are retired but many others are from younger generations. The relationships work because of personal chemistry and long-term friendships can be formed.

**What we do - Community Transport**

For many people living in Cheshire, access to town centres and essential services is not as easy as just jumping into their car, or even using a regular bus service.

So, we coordinate volunteer car drivers across West Cheshire and our small fleet of minibuses is equipped with spaces and lifts for wheelchair users.

We are proud to support Cheshire West and Chester Council with their community transport contracts. This includes school, day care and adult social care transportation for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

“Dial a Ride” and “Rural Rider” minibus services operate for residents of Northwich, Winsford and adjoining rural areas.

### **What we do - The Cheshire Food Hub**

This is a small wholesale operation to help tackle food poverty. We are not a food bank (although we do operate one small community shop, so perhaps we are).

With funding from various national, regional, and local initiatives - we purchase or accept food donations from national charities and the distribution chain.

We help by:

- Using some of our warehouse space, vehicles, and drivers to distribute bulk food supplies to local community groups,
- Redistributing surplus food between community groups,
- Packing food boxes for community groups in the school holidays.

### **Trustees and Governance**

Changing Lives Together is a registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The trustees are also the members and directors.

We are the employer for some 75 people and many volunteers. We are in receipt of a lot of public money.

The trustees currently hold 6 board meetings a year. Additional contributions vary according to circumstances.

As a trustee at Changing Lives Together you are part of the leadership team. You will have the opportunity to apply your unique skills and experience while learning from others. You must enjoy working closely with a passionate team of people who have different perspectives.

The trustees are not involved in the day-to-day running of the charity. That is delegated to the Chief Executive and the Heads of Department. Trustees play the role of “critical friend”, by giving support and constructive challenge, to help them manage effectively.

The role is a voluntary role for which there is no remuneration. Reasonable expenses incurred in undertaking the role can be paid in accordance with the Expenses Policy.

Every trustee is appointed for a period of three years. Terms may be renewed by agreement at the discretion of the board.

The Trustee Role Description sets out in more detail the responsibilities and the required skills and abilities of a trustee.

**To Apply**

Application is by CV (two pages maximum, please) and a covering letter (one page maximum, please), which should indicate why you are interested in applying for a Trustee role and how you meet the role profile. Please email these to Mike Jenkins, our Chief Executive, at [mjenkins@changing-lives-together.org.uk](mailto:mjenkins@changing-lives-together.org.uk).

If you would like a call to discuss the role in more detail, then you can also email Mike to arrange a convenient time.

The closing date is 16:00 on Wednesday 8 September 2021. Face to face interviewing is planned week commencing 27 September 2021.

Selected candidates will be invited to their first trustee meeting as an observer.

We warmly welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates. There is no right/wrong background, age, or other personal characteristic.