

# **BASIS YORKSHIRE**

**TRUSTEES RECRUITMENT  
INFORMATION**

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# THE HISTORY OF BASIS

GENESIS WAS SET UP IN LEEDS BY A FEW CHURCH VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTING SEXWORKERS IN LEEDS

1989

1995

GENESIS OFICIALLY BECAME CONSTITUTED AS A CHARITY

ESTABLISHED A YOUNG PERSON'S SERVICE TO SUPPORT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN WHO WERE BEING SEXUALLY EXPLOITED.

1997

2015

CHANGED OUR NAME TO BASIS IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR A NON-FAITH BASED, MORE INCLUSIVE IDENTITY AS THE SEX INDUSTRY CHANGED

BASIS BOYS WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT BOYS AND YOUNG MEN THAT ARE BEING EXPLOITED, SEXUALLY OR OTHERWISE

2018

2022

BASIS CURRENTLY WORKS WITH FEMALE SEX WORKERS AND THOSE WHO ARE, OR ARE AT RISK OF BEING EXPLOITED INCLUDING YOUNGF PEOPLE OF ALL GENDERS

# OUR STORY

Basis Yorkshire was set up (as Genesis Leeds) in 1989 by a few volunteers, supporting sex workers in Leeds. In 1997, a young person's service was established to accommodate the specific needs of girls and young women who were being sexually exploited, this service now supports all genders. The charity also provides high quality training and awareness raising sessions locally and nationally on social justice issues and practice development.

# WHAT WE DO

Basis supports indoor and street sex workers who identify as women, and young people who are sexually exploited. Our purpose is to empower people to make safer and healthier choices by offering information, support and options. Our work is driven by a sound evidence base, as well as working closely with women and young people to ensure our services are designed and delivered with them, putting their voices and experience at the centre of our work. We challenge stigma and inequality of access to services for everyone we work with.

We are proud to be one of a small number of specialist organisations that explicitly recognise and advocate for women's right to work more safely when selling sex, while also supporting young people who are sexually exploited to be safer and free from harm. We understand that for some women and young people, their 'choices' are severely constrained by a range of factors including physical and mental health, substance use, family circumstances and abusive relationships, as we support them in managing the risks and vulnerabilities they face. We recognise people's dignity and agency in their decision-making.

# THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Our board currently consists of 8 members who have a range of experience including finance, HR, fundraising and others.**



**Sarah Martin**  
Chair of Trustees

As chair (since Jan 2021), I play a role in supporting a dynamic and productive team of board members as we lead our organisation to that it furthers the goals Basis was set up to achieve.

**Paddy Trimmer**

As a former Chair I contribute to a range of issues including supporting the new Chair in her new role.

**Jo Maguire**  
Treasurer

I work closely with the Finance Manager, the CEO and other Trustees on the financial oversight of the charity, including reviewing financial performance, planning ahead and assessing and reporting to other Trustees on the financial risks to the charity.

**Rob Milligan**

My core role is to support the CEO, Trustees and the Basis team on developing the strategy for the charity and ensure the appropriate governance to support delivery of the strategy.



**Frances Storr**

I am a director of Levati and we do leadership development and organisational development. I am an organisational psychologist by trade and much of my work is helping people have the conversations they need to have in order to do the work they need to do.

**Helen Millot**

I work at the University of Leeds as a lecturer where I lead the Physician Associate Studies programme. I am interested in how new healthcare roles can be integrated into the current workforce of different sectors and how we can make inclusive health the norm within our curricula

**Esther Venning**

As a trustee at Basis since 2021, I support my fellow trustees and the Basis team to lead and develop the charity. I am a member of the strategy and governance working group, providing input into the development of Basis' strategy and its governance.

**Rob Milligan**

My role is to support the CEO, Trustees and the Basis team with strategy, opportunities, and development. I am passionate about social justice and harm reduction, supporting people where they are at.

# WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS?

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- Attendance at a quarterly full board meeting.
- Papers to be read before each meeting
- Attendance at specific working groups if available to take part
- Support for Basis campaigns if available to take part
- DBS certificate to be obtained by Basis\*

\* a past criminal record is not a barrier per se but will depend on the nature and the time spent. This information would need to be disclosed

# WHY DO PEOPLE BECOME A TRUSTEE?

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- Provide support to a CEO leading an organisation that is making a real difference to individuals or society as a whole
- Gain valuable experience and learn new skills within a leadership role
- Challenge yourself, by applying your skills in a different environment
- Gain non-executive board experience
- Learn from other trustees and gain new insights from seeing how others respond to situations and make decisions

# PURPOSE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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- To ensure Basis compliance with law and statutory duties
- Support the CEO to provide strategic leadership for the organisation
- To ensure that Basis is a well-run and effective organisation
- To ensure effective financial accountability and stability, and that Basis resources are well-used
- To ensure our values are at the heart of everything we do

# TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

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- To ensure that Basis complies with its governing document (including pursuing its objects as defined therein), charity law, company law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Scrutiny of finances and finance systems to ensure that Basis resources are used to deliver services effectively and to carry out its agreed purposes for the public benefit
- To contribute actively to the Board's role in giving stability and firm strategic direction to Basis through business planning and strategy, setting goals and targets, and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- To support and scrutinise the CEO in their work ensuring the charity is well-run
- To ensure the sustainability of Basis, taking balanced decisions which reflect the short, medium- and long-term interests of the charity
- To play an active role in communicating the work Basis do, influencing and working with key stakeholders as appropriate
- To play a role in ensuring that the Board of Trustees is fit for purpose in the effective governance of Basis
- To ensure the policies which govern the work of the charity is fit for purpose
- To safeguard the reputation and values of Basis.
- To protect and manage the property of Basis, and to ensure proper investment of its funds.
- To contribute to the appointment and monitoring of staff.

If the above sounds like it might be of interest to you we would love to hear from you. Please have a look at the person specification below and send us an expression of interest. If you would like an call to discuss anythings about the role before applying then information conversation first, please email us at [info-basis@basisyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:info-basis@basisyorkshire.org.uk).

#### Board Meeting Details:

Meetings are held quarterly from 5.30pm – 7.30 pm, via Zoom or at 94 North Street, LS2 7PN

You may be asked to occasionally attend other meetings and training sessions, depending on your role.

## Person Specification

### Essential

- Commitment to the aims and values of Basis
- Willingness to devote sufficient time to Trustee duties, with flexibility to spend more time as and when necessary on particular projects or where required
- Ability and availability to respond in a timely manner to e-mails and correspondence associated with Trustee duties
- Ability and willingness to support the scrutiny of financial documents and systems (although no need to have specific financial expertise)
- Independent judgment and balanced decision-making
- Good communication and influencing skills
- Ability to think creatively and take a flexible approach to problems
- Willingness to make an active contribution to the Board and ability to listen
- Commitment to the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- Ability to work effectively as a member of a team

### Desirable:

- Knowledge and experience of the voluntary and community sector
- Safeguarding expertise and experience
- Links to strategic networks in Leeds



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