

Call for Trustees

The Makaton Charity is seeking applicants to join its Board of Trustees, to act as enthusiastic ambassadors for the Charity's mission and to work with its Senior Management Team to develop and deliver the next key stage of growth required to meet the needs of our beneficiaries.

Makaton is the UK's leading language programme for children and adults with communication and learning difficulties. Makaton uses signs, symbols and speech to develop communication, language and literacy skills. The Makaton Charity:

- Provides training to parents, carers and professionals;
- Develops and produces a wide range of resources;
- Undertakes bespoke and translation services;
- Runs a free family advisory service for offering advice, information and support

We are looking for people to complement our existing Board members, with a range of skills and knowledge such as experience of communication and/or learning disability services as a professional or service user, running charitable organisations, fundraising, finance, human resource management, information technology, and business development.

The Board is particularly keen to attract candidates with knowledge and experience of one or more of the sectors in which the charity works; and for the Board as a whole to reflect the diversity of our beneficiaries. Experience of governance would be an advantage but is not required. The Board would welcome applications from people new to the Makaton Language Programme, as well as from people with a history of experience and involvement with Makaton. Necessary training will be available. The Charity works towards eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity in its work.

We would like to hear from anyone who feels they could contribute to our work at governance level and that being a trustee would be of benefit to them.

The Makaton Charity Board members are Charity Trustees governed by Charity Law, and Directors of a Limited Company with legal and financial responsibilities, who also advise on the Charity's strategic direction.

The Makaton Charity Trustees:

- Agree overall policy with the CEO, help define goals and evaluate performance;
- Work to increase the impact of The Makaton Charity's mission by brokering opportunities through their own contacts to provide the Charity with high-level points of entry into potentially supportive organisations;
- Act as advocates for the Charity themselves, with decision-makers in government and other strategic bodies;
- Identify funding and sponsorship opportunities and support the Charity's Senior Management Team and fellow Board members in following these up.

To apply:

Further information about The Makaton Charity, the role of Trustees and details of how to apply and the recruitment process are available online at www.makaton.org/trustees. A full application pack is also available by post, please call 01276 606760 or email trustees@makaton.org.

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 6 April 2010**.