Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

'helping Commonwealth veterans who fought for our freedom'

Trustee of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

Trustee Role Profile - General

The Board of Trustees of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League (RCEL), or Executive Committee, are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, developing the organisation aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document (memorandum and articles of association), legal and regulatory guidelines.

Trustees must always act in person and together in the best interest of RCEL, providing strategic oversight and ensuring sound decision making to deliver RCEL's charitable purpose.

RCEL is seeking candidates with senior-level experience and strategic insight who can provide constructive challenge, independent judgement, guidance and accountability in line with the duties of being a Trustee.

In addition to strong governance skills, we are particularly interested in candidates with experience in Safeguarding and/or income generation.

Core Responsibility

As a member of the Board, you will play an active part in the leadership of RCEL, upholding its values, shaping its strategic agenda and providing independent oversight, strategic guidance and specialist knowledge and advice.

Main Responsibilities

- To be legally accountable for the delivery of the RCEL's charitable purpose, ensuring that RCEL complies with all laws, legislation, corporate governance standards, its governing document and signs off the Annual Report.

- To uphold the fiduciary duty invested in the position (primarily, a fundamental 'duty of care' to the beneficiaries), undertaking such duties in a way that adds to public confidence and trust in RCEL.

- To act as a guardian of RCEL's assets both tangible and intangible and taking due care over their security, maintenance, collection, deployment and proper application.

- To consider the appropriateness of taking professional advice in all matters where the Board considers there may be material risk to RCEL, or where the Trustees may be in breach of their duties. This course of action will ensure the obligation to exercise their duty of care.

- To determine the overall direction and development of RCEL through good governance and clear strategic planning.

Main Duties

- Ensuring that the charity complies with legislative and regulatory requirements, and acts within the confines of its governing document and in furtherance to organisational activities contained therein.

- Engage with relevant stakeholders, including staff, external agencies and partners to promote RCEL's purpose, communicate its strategic aims and objectives and champion and explain RCEL's public benefit.

- Collaborate with RCEL's Staff and fellow Trustees to develop and review RCEL's strategic plans and initiatives, bringing both support and constructive challenge.

- Maintaining sound financial management of RCEL's resources, ensuring expenditure is in line with the organisation's objects, and investment activities meet accepted standards and policies.

- Monitoring the work and activities of the Secretary General/Chief Executive and employed staff.

- Assess and monitor RCEL's risk profile, including financial, operational, legal and reputational risks and provide insight into risk mitigation strategies.

- Uphold RCEL's values and promote the standards of behaviour RCEL expects of all its colleagues.

- Uphold confidentiality, remain independent and avoid acting in the interests of any individual, wider group or community.

- To attend and actively contribute to RCEL Board meetings, committees, working parties (as required), the AGM, any EGMs and Trustee training as set out in the Articles.

- To represent the Board's agreed position publicly on behalf of the charity.

- If requested, to attend RCEL events such as launches to raise awareness and fundraising events if available.

- In the context of the countries within which RCEL operates, to keep up to date in broad terms with developments in support of beneficiaries and the services provided by RCEL.

Person Specification

- Integrity to behave in line with RCEL's values and always act in the best interests of the organisation, its current and future beneficiaries.

- Demonstrate strong listening skills and be able to contribute relevant points crisply and succinctly in discussion.

- Demonstrate strong influencing skills, well developed interpersonal skills and have good powers of judgement, insight and vision.

- Demonstrate being able to focus on strategy and able to distinguish and articulate strategic from operational issues.

- An understanding of the Trustee role and its legal and governance responsibilities.

- A commitment to good governance and the motivation to support RCEL to deliver its purpose most effectively for public benefit.

- Awareness of the environment in which RCEL operates, and of issues affecting the voluntary sector.

Terms of Appointment

- **Time Commitment:** Successful candidates will be expected to attend 3 Board Meetings per year and the AGM/Council Meeting. Trustees with relevant skills may also be asked to participate in committees or working parties. Overall, the anticipated time commitment per year would be 4 days minimum up to 6 or 7 days including any committee or working group participation (if required).
- **Role Basis:** Fixed-term appointment for up to 5 years. (Maximum of 3 terms of 5-years, re-appointment required for each term).
- **Remuneration:** The role is unremunerated with reasonable expenses reimbursed.

How to Apply

If you have questions about the appointment and would find it useful to have an informal conversation, please contact hyoung@commonwealthveterans.org.uk and we will be happy to arrange a call.

Candidates should email a CV (no more than 3 sides) and a supporting statement (no more than 2 sides) which sets out why you think this role is the right move for you and how you meet the skills and experience required to hyoung@commonwealthveterans.org.uk.

Closing Date: 16 December 2026

Interview Dates: Mid-January (dates tbc; in-person in London)

We are keen to increase our diversity at Board level and in particular welcome applications from candidates with a background from Commonwealth countries, but all will be considered.