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Non-Executive Director Aspire Community Works Community Interest Company

Aspire is looking for a person to join our Board as a non-executive Director to help take our campaigning, community business forward to support our frontline employees and to achieve market changes and long-term sustainable growth.

This is an ideal opportunity for somebody who cares about frontline workers and believes that everyone in the everyday economy should have decent pay and working conditions and be treated with respect. While our work is currently focused on London and the South East, we welcome applications from anywhere in the UK.

About Aspire

Aspire is an award-winning, campaigning organisation that provides frontline open spaces and estate management services to public services in London and the South East. We provide decent employment opportunities for people who are disadvantaged by the current labour market. These include the Real Living Wage as a minimum, good working conditions and an employee voice.

Role

Our Board is currently composed of two external Director and two working Directors. It is responsible for the overall strategy of the organisation, for managing risk and taking important decisions when challenges arise.

Our board of Directors:

- makes decisions about its future direction and the overall strategy that the business will take;
- identifies key risks and challenges and determines strategies to overcome these;
- manages finance and governance to ensure that the organisation complies with its legal obligations, is financially resilient and that it operates in the community interest.

Our Non-Executive Directors are important members of the Aspire team. They provide an impartial and independent assessment as well as a constructive challenge to help the business to achieve the best it can for our local communities and for our employees.

The Board is currently thinking about changing its governance arrangements to provide more employee voice within business development, to democratise its structures and to access alternative forms of finance and it is likely that the new Director will be involved in decision-taking on this matter.



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Meetings and time commitment

There are currently three to four Board meetings a year which last no more than two hours. Papers are sent out in advance and normally take an hour to an hour and a half to read through. On occasions, we meet separately to consider strategy at half day to whole day meetings if required. All meetings are currently held online. There is plenty of opportunity for those who wish to volunteer more time to get more closely involved with different elements of the business, but there is no obligation to do so.

Person specification

Every person who wishes to become a Non-Executive Director must

- sign up to Aspire's ethos and values, its overall mission and purpose
- act with integrity and honesty
- pledge their time and commitment
- be independent and impartial in providing advice and assessment
- work well together with other Directors and the Aspire team respecting differences and diversity of thought.

We are currently looking for Non-Executive Directors with experience of any of the following:

- Social investment
- Lived experience of discrimination and disadvantage
- Campaigning and lobbying
- Communications and marketing
- Change management

This role is unpaid but we do cover expenses.

Interested?

If you wish to apply please send your CV and a short covering letter of no more than two pages of A4 and far less if you so choose by September 15th 2022 to works@aspirecommunityworks.com. If we need to make adjustments to enable your application, please contact the office on 020 7033 4433 or email us at works@aspirecommunityworks.com. We will then draw up a short list and invite shortlisted applicants to an online conversation. Please note that we hope to be in contact with applicants in the third week of September. If you cannot meet this deadline we are still interested in hearing from you if you feel you could make a contribution, as we have plans to increase the number of Board Members.