

# **Advisory Committee Candidate Pack**

July 2024



## About us

The British Nutrition Foundation exists to give people, professionals, and organisations access to reliable, impartial, evidence-based information on nutrition. Our vision is simple – we want more people to have access to healthy, sustainable diets, and we see our role – translating evidence-based nutrition science – as crucial in supporting policy makers, the food industry, civic society and the general public.

Our Strategy (2023-28) rests on three priorities:

**Changing the food environment:** Working with the food industry and others to advocate for an environment that makes healthier choices easier.

Where we live and what we earn radically shape the options available to us in terms of food and activity. Access to a healthy, sustainable diet is impacted by what we can afford, our social networks and community, and by the food environment we experience. For many people, this puts healthy eating out of reach.

We work with UK food manufacturers, supermarkets, catering and the ‘out of home’ sector, to support reformulation and healthier product development, and to advocate for changes to the food environment that make healthier choices easier.

Our corporate members represent a significant proportion of those who make and sell our food and are well placed to deliver change at pace and at scale. We work with our members, providing science-led insights and advice, aiming to drive change that makes healthier choices easier for consumers. For example, we supported a major retailer with evidence-based criteria for a healthy choice logo, which has been used in driving new product development and setting targets for increasing sales of healthier products.

We also collaborate with stakeholders and organisations across society, including schools, local authorities, charities and policy makers, to support efforts to shape a healthier food environment.

**Advocating Science and Building Consensus:** Using thought leadership and our wide network across the field to champion evidence-based nutrition science.

Our work is anchored in scientific expertise and an ability to translate nutrition science for a range of audiences. Everything we do is underpinned by a strong foundation of scientific evidence, supported by an independent Scientific Committee. We use this expertise to provide science-led insights into the key issues in public health nutrition.

A key strength is our connections in the world of nutrition science and in the intersection between science and sustainability. To tackle today's pressing issues in public health – obesity, healthy ageing, diabetes and widening health inequalities - we believe we must work together across specialities and convene those who can help us make an impact.

We also want to recognise and champion those working in the field of nutrition science. Our awards, made possible by the Drummond Memorial Fund, span scientific careers, from our early career award, given to those who show the potential to be future leaders, to the BNF Prize, which is awarded each year to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of nutrition and public health over the longer term.

**Educating people:** Providing information to develop knowledge and skills that inspire people, in a challenging environment, to make healthier choices.

As an evidence-based organisation, we are concerned by the volume of conflicting, poor-quality information and advice that is available on diet and health. We have the expertise make nutrition science accessible to a wide audience, providing the facts behind the headlines.

This year, our website was relaunched for a 'consumer' audience, using insights from search engine data to identify issues most frequently searched and on which the Foundation could provide evidence-based information. Dwell time on the site has improved, suggested users are connecting with the information and reading through our content. This strand of work remains a key priority for 2024-25.

We commissioned a 'deep dive' on Education this year, to critically review *Food – a fact of life*, our programme of resources for teachers in primary and secondary schools – and identify future challenges and opportunities. With *Food a fact of life* in almost half of UK secondary schools, we continue to listen to feedback from teachers and schools.

**Our strategy is supported by two enablers:**

**Being a great place to work, and work with**

In the past year, we have restructured the organisation better to align with our strategy, which has led to significant change. We have invested in people to address capacity issues, and this process is ongoing. We seek input from our team through staff surveys, the results of which are reviewed by our HR & Remuneration Committee and support all staff to have Personal Development Plans in place.

Our commitment to EDI is now being felt more widely in the organisation, as we have begun to collect data on protected characteristics and make some changes to our processes, for example, using 'blind' applications in recruitment and accessible interview methods to attract candidates who might not otherwise apply.

The Board has appointed an EDI 'Champion', trustee Rosalie Forde, who will work alongside our EDI Champion in the staff team, Ayela Spiro, to further this important agenda.

## **Sustaining our organisation**

To sustain and develop our organisation, we plan to grow and diversify income.

Whilst membership subscriptions and corporate donations remain a significant proportion of income, we are pleased with some recent growth in our income from academic partnerships, trusts and foundations, and partnerships with other charities and non-profit organisations.

We do not invest in public fundraising.

## **Our independence**

As a charity funded by corporate donations operating in the food industry, the British Nutrition Foundation is profoundly aware of the importance of protecting the Foundation from undue industry influence and the reputational risk of failing to maintain our independence.

We safeguard our independence in a number of ways:

- the Board of Trustees is supported by the Advisory Committee, the composition of which is weighted towards academics;
- our Science work plan is informed by an independent Scientific Committee, chaired by our Science Director, Sara Stanner;
- specialist scientific support is provided by the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) of our journal, Nutrition Bulletin. The EAB comprises more than 30 members drawn from a range of academic specialisms nutrition science and from institutions in the UK, Europe, China, North America and South America;
- our work in schools is scrutinised by four Education Working Groups representing teachers in primary and secondary schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The groups meet annually and are chaired by Education Services Manager, Claire Theobald;
- we have procedures in place to ensure the quality and clarity of our public information, including the Patient Information Forum tick mark, the UK quality mark for trustworthy health information;
- corporate members are required to abide by the terms of our [Ethical Policy](#) which clearly states that they cannot advocate for or seek to influence the position of the British nutrition foundation in relation to any aspect of food policy or regulation, and
- we will never lobby or advocate for food brands or products.

## Values

Our Strategy defines what we want to achieve, and our values describe how we do it. Our Values encompass the beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that are fundamental to the British Nutrition Foundation and our organisational culture.

Our Values are:

- **Purpose** – we are focussed on delivering our mission and constantly aiming to learn and improve.
- **Integrity** - we are science-led and authentic in our commitment to improve health and wellbeing. We are honest and transparent about our work and how it is funded.
- **Confidence** – we aspire to make our voice heard in order make a difference. We respond to the challenges that get in the way of everyone being able to eat healthily and sustainably.
- **Connection** – we work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to deliver our charitable aims and amplify our impact.
- **Openness** – we are welcoming and want everybody to feel valued and supported. We communicate honestly and are open to criticism.

We updated our values this year and have been working to embed them into our practices and culture as an organisation.

We expect all members of the British Nutrition Foundation ‘family’ to consider these values in all aspects of their work with us.

## The Advisory Committee

British Nutrition Foundation was established to:

- advance the education of the public, and those involved in training and the education of others, in nutrition; and
- advance the study of and research into nutrition for the public benefit and disseminate and publish the useful results of such research.

The Board takes overall responsibility for:

- the long-term direction of the charity, including its objectives and charitable purpose;
- ensuring that the strategy is implemented, with appropriate oversight of policies, activities, people and culture; and
- compliance with regulatory requirements and where possible, adopting best practice in the Foundation's ways of working and in partnerships with others.

The Board of Trustees is supported by the Advisory Committee, comprised of 10 independent advisors who support the organisation on a pro bono basis. It is chaired by Professor Janet Cade, Professor of Nutritional Epidemiology at Leeds University, supported by Vice-Chair Kate Platts, Head of Research and Innovation, Westfield Health.

Members are appointed solely on their ability to contribute to the strategy and impact of the British Nutrition Foundation, and do not in any way represent their organisations or sectors.

The Advisory Committee is responsible for:

- sharing external insights on the charity's behalf that will strengthen its strategic intent;
- advising and reporting to the Board on issues falling within the British Nutrition Foundation's strategic plan;
- advising on additional issues identified by the Advisory Committee itself, or as may be referred to the Advisory Committee by the Board or the Senior Leadership Team. Such issues may relate to nutrition science, food policy, or education relevant to industry, academia, schools, health professionals, the media, government, or consumers;
- filtering and fine-tuning any recommendations made by the Scientific Committee intended for the Board of Trustees;
- establishing, if required, task & finish groups to consider specific issues in

depth. Such groups may be chaired by an Advisory Committee member, but may include external, independent advisors; and

- supporting, as a body jointly, and as its members individually, the British Nutrition Foundation and its communications.

## **Time commitment**

The Advisory Committee holds up to 3 meetings per year, one of which may be in person.

Otherwise, meetings are held via Zoom or Teams.

Members are also invited to attend the Foundation's Annual Day (usually held in London in November) which presents a valuable opportunity to meet trustees and the staff team, wider stakeholders and corporate members.

## **Terms of office**

Advisory Committee members may serve for a maximum tenure of two, three-year terms (plus one additional year, if required).

## **Expenses**

Membership of the Advisory Committee is unpaid. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed, however.

## **Person specification**

We are now recruiting **two** new members of the Committee.

### **(A): Academia**

Key skills required are:

- Significant expertise in nutrition science or allied disciplines within the broad areas of interest to the British Nutrition Foundation (e.g. sustainability, food systems)
- An understanding of the interface between nutrition science, food policy and the UK / international food industry.
- Able to provide advice on matters in nutrition science, and to advise the Board of Trustees, and SLT on emerging trends relating to food science and food policy.
- Excellent knowledge of current issues in nutrition science and food policy
- Able to advise on how the British Nutrition Foundation might increase the quality and quantity of scientific grant submissions and partnerships.

- Critically appraise the work of the Foundation from the lens of nutrition science and advise on changes as necessary to further the objectives of the charity.
- An ability to see the ‘big picture’ and advise accordingly, being mindful of not stepping into an organisational / execution role.
- Able to take a 3 -5 year view of the issues and opportunities facing the British Nutrition Foundation and get above the day to day.
- Able to use their academic network and connections to help the British Nutrition Foundation raise its profile, extend its relationships with key stakeholders, and to advocate for the work of the Foundation (within guidelines) to the scientific community. Willing to act as an Ambassador for the work of the Foundation.
- Able to act as a sounding board for the Board and senior leadership team of the Foundation (Chief Executive and direct reports) and to advise on strategic issues from time to time, as needed.
- A creative thinker who can help the Foundation see and seize opportunities and provide value-driven insights and advice.
- A demonstrable commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

## **(B): Public Health**

Key skills required are:

- Experience at a senior level in public health, ideally a Director of Public Health or former director, or senior expertise in a related field.
- Excellent knowledge of current issues in public health and diet-related ill health.
- Able to use their knowledge of UK health systems, network and connections to advise where the British Nutrition Foundation may be able to add value to public health teams at a local level, and to extend its relationships with key stakeholders.
- Critically appraise the work of the Foundation from the lens of public health and advise on changes as necessary to further the objectives of the charity.
- Willing to advocate for the work of the Foundation (within guidelines) to influential individuals and organisations.
- An ability to see the ‘big picture’ and advise accordingly, being mindful of not stepping into an organisational / execution role.
- Able to take a 3 -5 year view of the issues and opportunities facing the British Nutrition Foundation and get above the day to day.
- Able to act as a sounding board for the Board and senior leadership team of the Foundation (Chief Executive and direct reports) and to advise on strategic issues from time to time, as needed.
- A creative thinker who can help the Foundation see and seize opportunities and



provide value-driven insights and advice.

- A demonstrable commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

The British Nutrition Foundation is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and particularly welcomes people from backgrounds which are currently under-represented in its governance.

## How to apply

Please apply by email only with a CV and a brief supporting statement.

Your statement should highlight relevant experience and demonstrate how you meet the Person Specification.

Please send the above by email to Emma Rowley, Executive Assistant to the CEO, at [e.rowley@nutrition.org.uk](mailto:e.rowley@nutrition.org.uk) citing '**AC Member**' in the subject line.

Please submit your application by 5pm on **2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**.

## More information

The Foundation's Chief Executive, Elaine Hindal, would be delighted to speak to prospective candidates, and can be reached via her Executive Assistant, Emma Rowley at [e.rowley@nutrition.org.uk](mailto:e.rowley@nutrition.org.uk).

To see more detail about our work and the impact of British Nutrition Foundation, explore the links below.

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/>

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/our-work/who-we-are/charity-overview/>

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/news/>

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/our-work/impact-and-reach/annual-reviews/>

<https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/>