

British Nutrition Foundation Trustee Recruitment Candidate Pack

March 2025

The British Nutrition Foundation is a UK charity committed to evidence-based nutrition science.

Having reviewed and refreshed our Strategy in the last two years, we have recently restated our Purpose to place greater emphasis on public health.

Today, our purpose is promoting health and wellbeing and preventing diet-related ill health through evidence-based nutrition science, and we hope to be a bridge between nutrition science, government, industry, education and people, and a conduit to a healthier, more sustainable food environment for all.

With the retirement of Professor Colin Dennis, a longstanding Trustee and former Chair of the Foundation, and of Luke Stockill, former Commercial Director for Morrisons having recently located to Australia, we are seeking to recruit two new Trustees to help take forward the work of the Foundation.

Trustee roles are unpaid but reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

About us

Our strategy

Our vision is simple – we want more people to have a healthy, sustainable diet.

Too often, the narrative of improving nutrition and tackling obesity has over-emphasised individual responsibility while underplaying the fact that where we live and what we earn radically shapes the options available to us in terms of what we eat.

Our strategy for 2023-28 recognises this fact and sets out an ambitious plan for the British Nutrition Foundation to:

- help change the future food environment. We work with companies in the food industry, including all of the major UK supermarkets, contract caterers, and leading food producers, and are a trusted partner in horizon scanning, strategy development and in helping inform healthy, sustainable science-based product innovation and reformulation.

- help educate others through our schools-based education programme, *Food a fact of life*, and our growing social media and digital content
- continue to be a passionate advocate for the study of nutrition science and its application to real-world challenges, offering to others impartial, evidenced-based thinking to inform food initiatives and food policy.

Our values

At the British Nutrition Foundation our vision is simple. We believe that healthy, sustainable diets should be accessible to all.

Enabling a future where everyone has access to a healthy, sustainable diet is hugely complex and can only be achieved through wide-ranging partnerships where everyone's voice can be heard.

To ensure we remain focused on delivery of our mission we stay true to our five core values that drive our behaviours and how we work.

- **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.

Governance

Alyson Greenhalgh-Ball is Chair of the British Nutrition Foundation, supported by our immediate past Chair, Professor John Mathers, Newcastle University. The Board (of up to 12 Trustees) 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 a Nominations Committee, chaired by Professor Christine Williams, Reading University, and by two external Committees, the Advisory Committee, chaired by Professor Janet Cade, Leeds University, and the Scientific Committee, chaired by British Nutrition Foundations Science Director, Sara Stanner.

Day to day operational matters, delegated to the Chief Executive and her team, are overseen by the two sub-Committees of the Board, the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee and the HR & Remuneration Committee.

In addition, the Foundation's journal, *Nutrition Bulletin*, is supported by an independent international Editorial Advisory Board, whilst the charity's education work programme is

informed by four Education Working Groups across each of the UK nations.

The composition of the Board and these Committees is deliberately weighted towards the scientific community, based in universities and research institutes, and those from education, finance, communications, and HR backgrounds. Three of twelve trustees have a background in the food industry.

All who serve as Trustees or on British Nutrition Foundation committees do so on a voluntary basis and are unpaid. Reasonable travel expenses are reimbursed.

Time commitment

The Board meets four times a year, including a Strategy Day preceded by a Board Dinner. Two meetings per year are face-to-face in London and two are via Teams.

Trustees are invited to serve on one of the charity's sub-Committees which meet up to four times per year (remotely) according to the Committee workplan, or to join task and finish groups on specific issues. However, Committee membership is not mandatory.

From time to time, Trustees may be asked to meet the wider employee team and to share their insights or expertise, as well as provide ad hoc support to staff members.

Trustees are also invited to attend the Foundation's Annual Conference (usually held in London in November) which presents an important opportunity for Trustees to meet wider stakeholders and members.

Board Meeting Dates 2025 - 26

2025 Meeting Dates

April 23rd
July 8th (Awayday)
October 21st

2026 Meeting Dates

January 27th
April 28th (Awayday)
July 7th
October 13th

Person specification (1)

All Trustees of the British Nutrition Foundation must be able to develop a thorough understanding of the charity's core purpose, the issues it faces over the coming years and the strategy for ensuring our continued development and success, and have an understanding of, commitment to and enthusiasm for nutrition and sustainable food.

All act independently and do not in any way represent their organisations.

In addition, the specific skills required are:

- strategic thinking; able to ensure the Foundation has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focussed on achieving its charitable aims
- knowledge and experience of the food and nutrition ecosystem at a national or local level
- 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
- able to understand and take on the legal responsibilities of Trustees, and
- a demonstrable commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

In addition:

- Experience at a senior level in public health, ideally a Director of Public Health or former director, or senior expertise in a related field. We see this trustee role as providing a link with the Advisory Committee.
- Excellent knowledge of current issues in public health and food-related ill health, with a specific interest in the role of the food environment in shaping health outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations.
- Able to use their knowledge of funding networks to advise the executive team on income diversification.
- Able to be an advocate for the work of the Foundation and from time to time, support or advise on public affairs and/or communications activity.

Person specification (2)

In addition to good experience of consumer or customer health and nutrition considerations, we are specifically looking for an individual with strong commercial and business development experience in a UK consumer food or food retail environment (in-store, online, out of home or contract catering).

This should include responsibility at a senior level for income and profit targets, and strong commercial insights into the business opportunities and risks associated with the UK public health agenda.

Other general requirements are:

- An understanding of commitment to and enthusiasm for healthy, sustainable diets.
- Awareness of how the world is changing politically, economically and socially and how these changes may impact the charity and its commitment to help everyone eat a healthy, sustainable diet.
- A commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, and the Foundation's values.
- Strategic vision with an ability to focus on practical issues
- Experience of serving on a committee or Board (or the aptitude to be a credible contributor).
- A team player able to debate issues in a constructive and collegiate manner.
- An ability and willingness to be an ambassador for the charity and to represent the charity positively to external audiences, in particular with senior commercial stakeholders.
- Previous trustee experience in a UK charity is desirable.
- Experience in organisations that have a built strong digital engagement with the public, stakeholders and interest groups is desirable.

How to apply

For further information about these roles, or to speak to the Foundation's Chief Executive, Elaine Hindal, please contact Emma Rowley at e.rowley@nutrition.org.uk.

Please send a CV with a brief supporting statement outlining your interest in the role, to Emma Rowley at e.rowley@nutrition.org.uk. Closing date for applications is **Friday 11th April 2025**. Face to face interviews will be held in London in May 2025.