

Launchpad

Preventing homelessness
across Reading

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee for Launchpad Reading. At Launchpad, we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to live a safe, stable, and fulfilling life, free from the fear of homelessness. Over the years, our charity has grown into a lifeline for the most vulnerable people in our community, providing not only housing support but also life-changing services that help individuals and families rebuild their lives.

As a trustee, you will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our charity. You will be part of a dedicated team, helping to steer our strategy, guide decision-making, and ensure we remain

true to our mission of preventing homelessness. Your insight and passion will be key to maintaining the high standards of support we offer, and ensuring we respond to the evolving needs of those who depend on us.

We are looking for trustees who share our commitment to empathy, inclusion, and action—individuals who bring fresh perspectives and expertise, as well as a genuine desire to make a difference. Whether you have experience in governance, finance, housing, social services, or simply a heart for community work, your contribution could help us continue to support people in Reading who need us most.

This is a truly rewarding opportunity, not only to support the people in our town but also to grow both personally and professionally as part of a forward-thinking charity. I encourage you to explore this pack, learn more about our work, and consider joining us in making a real impact.

Together, we can prevent homelessness and change lives for the better.

Sean Sutcliffe

**Chair,
Launchpad**



| About Launchpad

For 45 years, we have been Reading's leading homelessness prevention charity. We provide vital information and support for individuals, couples and families who are homeless or at risk of losing their home. It all started with a soup kitchen, founded by University of Reading students back in 1979. Since then, we've grown Launchpad into a complete homelessness service.

Preventing homelessness

Drop-In service

Our Drop-In service provides free information and support for people with a housing or homelessness problem. Absolutely anyone can visit our offices in central Reading on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 2pm and speak to one of our advisors.

Floating support

Our Floating Support team work with single parents, families, couples and individuals who are at risk of homelessness. The team offer support for up to six months. During this time they work to address the root of a housing problem – such as debt, mental health or addiction - and help people remain in their home or find suitable accommodation.

Providing homes

Supported Housing

Our Supported Housing service provides homes for over 100 people who are homeless and we have affordable long-term homes for individuals, couples and families in housing need.

Our temporary homes provide a stable place to live for periods of six to 24 months, while clients work with their dedicated support worker, to break the cycle of homelessness and tackle the issues that are holding people back.

The Nova Project

The Nova project is a specialist service for women, established in 2021 by Reading Borough Council, in response to an identified need. It provides a home for 10 multiply disadvantaged women in a gender and trauma-informed supported environment.

The Pods

The Pods are self-contained modular homes in Reading established in 2021, providing wrap around support for 40 people who have been found sleeping rough and have complex needs.

Clients can be housed for 2-3 years to give them the opportunity to rebuild their lives through longer-term housing stability, paired with the essential support they need to take the next step to break the cycle of rough sleeping.

Rebuilding lives

Launchpad 135

Launchpad 135 is Reading's first work and life skills centre, a place where vulnerable people can learn new skills, build confidence and get back into work. This is where we rebuild lives.

We provide work-readiness skills, digital skills, DIY and cookery skills. The centre also serves as a hub, used by other charities and partner organisations as a safe space to meet clients who may be affected by homeless issues.

Who did we help in 2023/24?

Preventing homelessness

 **1,141** people were supported by our **drop-in services**

 **248** people were supported by our **floating support service**

 **13** people were supported with **resettlement support***

Providing homes

 **167** people were supported by our **supported housing and removals service**

Rebuilding lives

 **233** people were supported by **Launchpad 135** - our work and life skills centre

TOTAL - 1,802

Our vision

We want everyone in Reading to have their own home, and the opportunity for a positive future.

Our mission

Our mission is to house, support and empower vulnerable people to transform their lives and fulfil their potential.

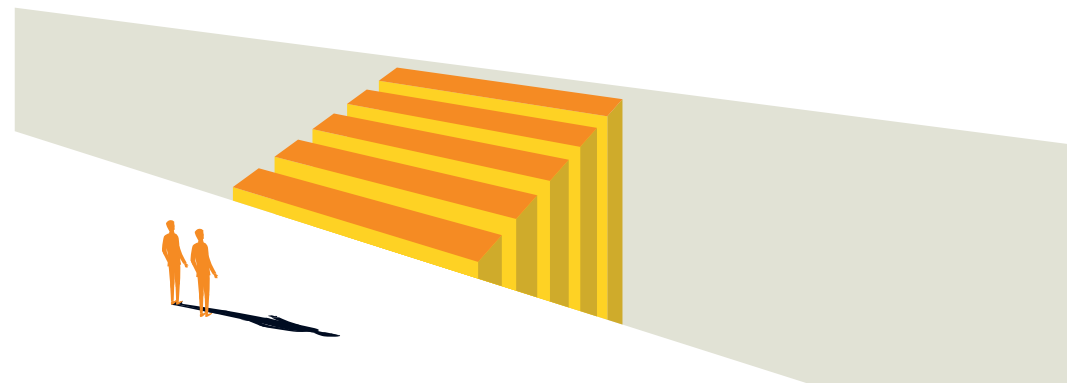
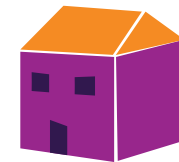
Our values

RESPECT - We respect the unique worth of every individual

EMPOWER - Every individual has the opportunity to help others fulfil their potential

INTEGRITY - We are always open, consistent and accountable in all that we do

INFLUENCE - We use our skills and knowledge to encourage change and innovation



| What's in it for you?

There are many great reasons for joining our team, including:

Board Experience

Ideal for those seeking to gain board experience or those wanting to gain senior management experience

Personal Fulfilment

Make a tangible impact to a well-known charity that values your professional and personal experiences

Inclusive Environment

Be part of an organisation that values co-production and peer support, using lived experience to drive positive change

Ambitious and growing

Be part of a charity that has daily impact on the lives of the most vulnerable in our town and help more people by being part of our exciting future.

| Who we're looking for

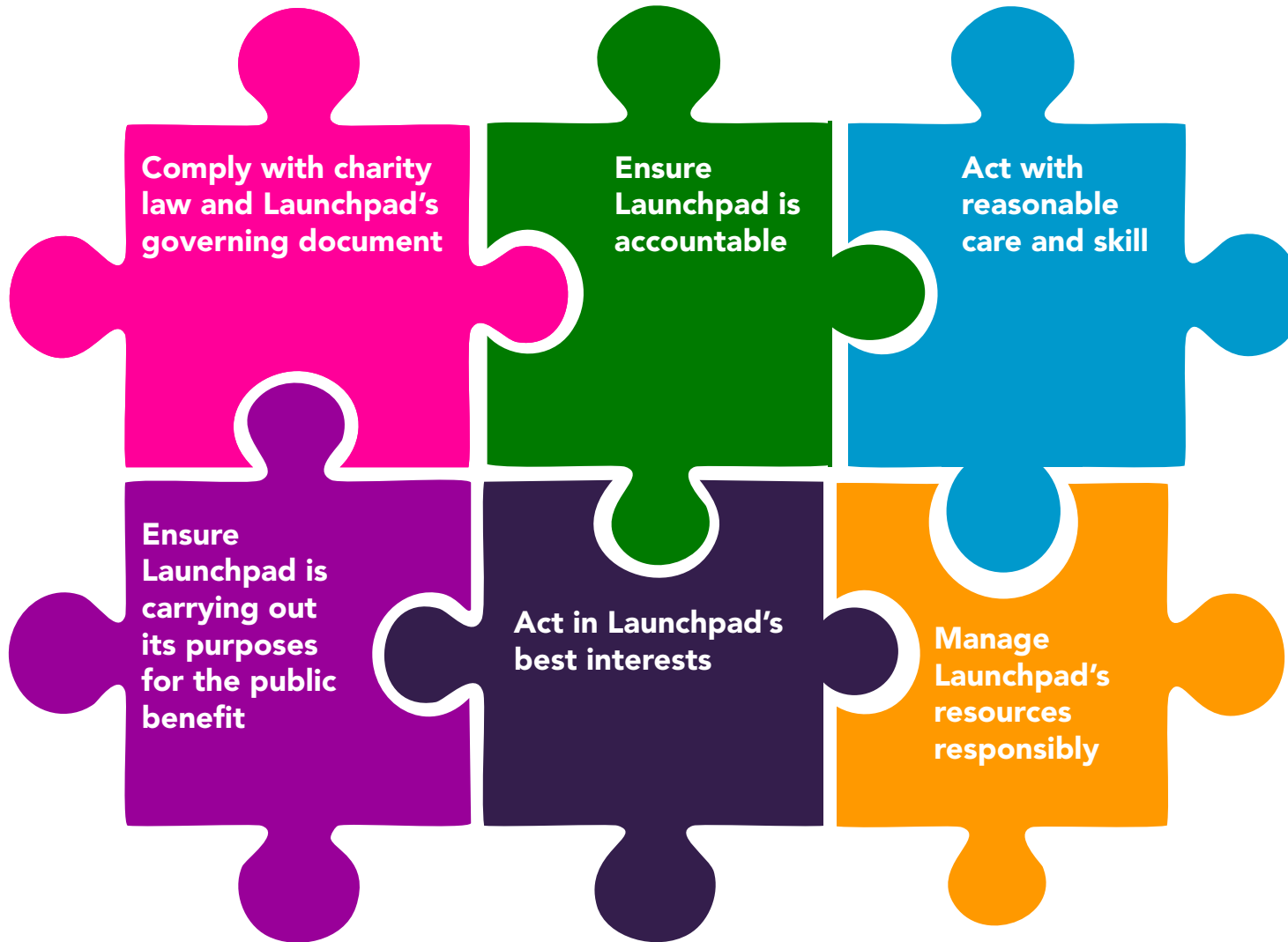
Anyone is welcome to apply to be a Launchpad trustee. **Previous trustee experience is not necessary.** We are particularly interested in meeting people who have experience of:

- **Accounting or finance, or**
- **Housing or project development, or**
- **Marketing and/or comms sector, or**
- **Fundraising from a range of funding streams, or**
- **Influencing a local community, or**
- **Personal experience of being homeless, mental health issues or addiction.**

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to equal opportunities and building a board that reflects the community we serve. To enhance our diversity, we welcome applications from people from minority ethnic backgrounds, all gender groups and/or with a disability, and people from the LGBTQI+ community as well as young people, between 18 and 25.

The six main duties of a trustee



As a Trustee, you will play an important role, in providing leadership and direction.

All our Trustees have legal responsibility for the management and administration of Launchpad, in accordance with the roles and responsibilities of charity trustees and charity law.

You can read more about the role of a trustee on this [UK Government website](#).

Further information about the role of a trustee

What's the time commitment?

Trustees are required to attend quarterly Board meetings and are also expected to attend key fundraising events. We also have a number of Board sub-committees which meet regularly and trustees are expected to join at least one committee.

Overall we would expect you to commit 4 to 5 days per year to Launchpad.

All trustees support the CEO and wider senior team with advice and guidance, including:

- Strategic direction and ensuring governance reflects the needs of our clients
- Supporting and overseeing new service developments
- Being a guardian of our values, and an ambassador in the community
- Using your networks to forge new partnerships and raise the profile of our work





Apply

If you would like to apply to be a Launchpad Trustee, please email our CEO, Su Hamblyn:
su.hamblyn@launchpadreading.org.uk.

If you would like to speak with the Chair or CEO prior to applying, please let us know using the same email address and we will arrange it. The closing date for applications is 30 November 2024.

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Launchpad is a registered charity (279859) and is a company limited by guarantee (1459149) in England and Wales.