

The Advonet Group

Providing Independent Advocacy



**Join our
Board of
Trustees**

Recruitment Pack

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Welcome

Peter Gruen, Chair of Trustees

Dear prospective trustee,

Thank you for your interest in joining The Advonet Group.

Advonet exists to ensure that people who are often unheard are able to have their voices listened to, their rights upheld, and real choices about their lives. That purpose sits at the heart of everything we do.

As Chair, I see first-hand the difference our staff and volunteers make every day. I also see how important strong governance is in enabling that work to thrive. Our Board of Trustees plays a critical role in providing oversight, constructive challenge, and strategic direction - ensuring the organisation remains financially sustainable, values-led, and focused on impact.

We are now looking to strengthen our Board further. We are particularly interested in individuals who can bring expertise in communications and marketing, legal, or business development and entrepreneurship.

Just as importantly, we are committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We warmly encourage applications from people with lived experience of the issues we work on, and from people from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds.

You don't need to have been a trustee before. What matters most is your commitment to our purpose, your willingness to contribute thoughtfully, and your ability to work collaboratively as part of a governance team.

I hope this pack gives you a clear sense of what being a trustee at Advonet involves, and I encourage you to consider applying.

Thank you for your interest.

Peter Gruen

Chair of Trustees,
The Advonet Group

About Advonet

Learn about our work



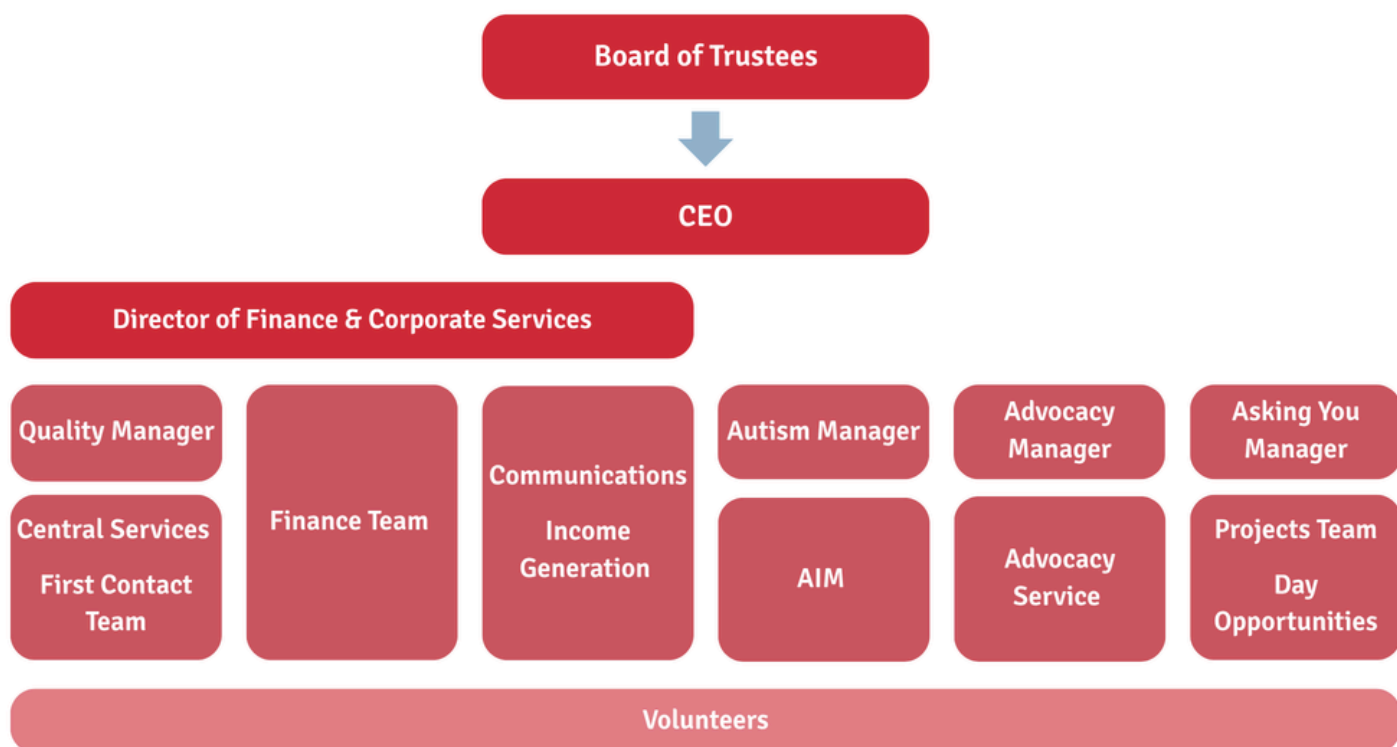
Established in 2001, The Advonet Group is an independent advocacy charity based in Leeds. Across our services, we support people to have their voices heard and their rights upheld.

Each year, we work alongside thousands of people who may find it difficult to navigate systems, express their views, or influence decisions about their lives.

We are a values-driven organisation, committed to high-quality services, strong partnerships, and continuous learning. We are also focused on our long-term sustainability and impact, including diversifying income and strengthening resilience.

You can find out more about our current Board of Trustees [on our website](#).

Our Organisational Structure





Our Values

What Advonet believes in

At Advonet, our values are more than words on a page – they shape how we work, how we support people, and how we treat each other.

They reflect what matters most to our staff and the communities we serve. They guide us in delivering services and projects that are inclusive, empowering, and accountable.



We are Kind: We treat ourselves and clients with patience, compassion and respect, understanding that every journey is unique.



We are Inclusive: We remove barriers to make sure everyone, regardless of background or access need, feels included.



We are Accountable: We do what we say we will with both clients and our colleagues. When we can't, we're open and honest, and work hard to find other solutions.



We celebrate Diversity: We embrace difference in all forms, striving for a workforce that reflects the people we represent and the communities we work with.



We are Empowering: We fight people's corner, ensuring their voices are at the forefront in decisions being made about them.

About the Trustee Role

Key information

Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of Advonet. They ensure the organisation is well-run, financially sustainable, and delivering against its charitable purpose.

The Board works in partnership with the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Leadership Team, providing support, oversight and constructive challenge.

Core responsibilities

- Ensuring Advonet delivers its charitable purpose
- Contributing to strategy and long-term direction
- Overseeing financial performance and sustainability
- Ensuring effective governance and risk management
- Supporting and constructively challenging the CEO
- Acting as an ambassador for Advonet

What We're Looking For

We are particularly interested in recruiting trustees with experience in:

- Communications and marketing
- Legal expertise
- Business development / entrepreneurship

We also strongly welcome:

- People with lived experience of the issues we work on
- Individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds
- Those new to trustee roles who can bring fresh perspectives

We recognise that people bring different experiences and pathways. You don't need to meet every criterion to apply.





Key Qualities

- Commitment to Advonet's purpose and values
- Strategic thinking and sound judgement
- Ability to collaborate and contribute constructively
- Willingness to learn and engage

Time Commitment and Practicalities

- Board meetings: Approximately 4–6 per year, including one away day held on a Saturday in January
- Additional subgroup meetings: Approximately 4 per year (if applicable)
- Preparation time to read papers and contribute

This is a voluntary (unpaid) role, with reasonable expenses reimbursed.

Why Join Advonet?

- Help shape the direction of a respected advocacy charity
- Make a meaningful difference to people's lives
- Contribute your skills and experience at Board level
- Be part of a thoughtful and committed governance team



How to Apply

What we need from you



We aim to keep our recruitment process accessible and proportionate.

Application Process

Please send:

- A short expression of interest (max 1–2 pages or ~750 words) outlining:
 - Why you're interested in becoming a trustee
 - What skills, experience, or perspective you would bring
- A CV or LinkedIn profile

We also request that you complete our online [equal opportunities monitoring form](#). As with colleagues, we seek to recruit trustees that reflect the communities we serve and are committed to providing equality of access for people from all parts of those communities. This isn't shared with the Chair or CEO.

Selection process

- An informal conversation/interview with the Chair and/or CEO
- Opportunity to meet members of the Board or attend part of a meeting
- References and standard trustee eligibility checks

Accessible applications

We are committed to making our recruitment process as inclusive as possible.

If you would prefer to submit your interest in a different format (for example, a video, audio recording, or an informal conversation), we are very happy to accommodate this.

If you would like to discuss the role before applying, we would welcome an informal conversation.

Contact Us

To apply or arrange an informal conversation, please contact:
Peter Gruen, Chair of Trustees via hr@advonet.org.uk



Contact Us

How to get in touch with Advonet

If you have any questions about the Trustee role, please contact Angela Ellis, Chief Executive by email at Angela.Ellis@advonet.org.uk, who is supporting this process.

Our contact details

Address: Unity Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS7 1AB

Website: advonet.org.uk

Email address: office@advonet.org.uk or angela.ellis@advonet.org.uk

Phone number: Tel: 0113 244 0606 / Text: Angela on 07841 104473

Social media: @advonetuk on Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky;
The Advonet Group on YouTube and LinkedIn



Thank you!



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