



# **Donor Conception Network**

## **An opportunity to join the Trustee board**

The Donor Conception Network (the Network) is the leading charity supporting anyone who is thinking about using or has used donor conception – that may be egg, sperm or embryo donation (with or without surrogacy) – to have children. We support openness in families about these issues. We are looking for two new trustees to strengthen our skill base and replace departing trustees. One of the new trustees should have financial skills and experience, and they will become our first Treasurer. The other should have professional experience of the fertility/donor conception sector.

### **What we do**

- We provide support and resources to over 2,000 member families, mainly in the UK but also overseas. As well as working directly with families and donor conceived people we work on their behalf - advising clinics, policy makers and other professional bodies.
- We run a busy support helpline, helping to address the social and emotional issues people face, as well as offering practical information and advice.
- We publish and distribute a unique range of resources, from children's storybooks, advice guides for parents and family members, to films featuring donor conceived young people.
- We run conferences and workshops to help people prepare for parenthood, and to explore ways of telling children about their conception.

Managed by Director Nina Barnsley and five part-time staff from an office in Kings Cross, London, UK, the charity has an annual turnover of around £250,000.

### **Who we are looking for**

We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated people, with a commitment to the aims of the Network, to join us as a trustee. Applicants should support fertility treatment and donor conception in general and appreciate the value of openness in families. You might have personal experience and knowledge of infertility issues, including donor conception or surrogacy.

Our members represent diverse family types: approximately half are heterosexual couples, with the balance being solo mums and same sex couples. They are geographically and ethnically diverse, based across the UK and internationally. We want our trustees to mirror this diversity. Our five current trustees, three women and two men, have all used donor conception to create their families (as solo mums or in a same sex or heterosexual couple).

We are interested to hear from applicants who have worked on committees, boards or as trustees, but this is not essential.

We are looking to fill two trustee positions:

1. A Treasurer, for which financial management and/or accounting experience is essential. We do not currently have specific trustee roles, except for the chair, but are looking to create the role of treasurer which will be this role. The candidate will have the opportunity to help shape the role which we see as one of strategic oversight. We are also currently recruiting for additional financial support for delivery of the finance function, support we have not previously had.
2. A second trustee with current or reasonably recent professional experience in the field of fertility and/or donor conception.

Trustees normally meet 4 times a year in a central London location (though this may be via zoom if you are based elsewhere) and may have other online meetings through the year. Meetings are held during the working day, usually on a Friday afternoon. Trustees communicate mainly via email between meetings. Due to the nature of its work and funding there is an expectation that Trustees will contribute actively to the work of the charity.

Trustees will receive reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

## **How to apply**

An information pack containing a role description and personal criteria can be found at [www.dcnetwork.org/vacancies](http://www.dcnetwork.org/vacancies).

To apply, please submit a CV and a covering letter to [enquiries@dcnetwork.org](mailto:enquiries@dcnetwork.org). Your covering letter should describe your interest in our work and the contribution you can make and provide examples to demonstrate how your experience meets the personal criteria in the information pack.

Applications close at 5pm on **18 October 2023**.

Interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held on **Friday 3 November**.

Final decisions will be made within a week. A full induction will be provided which will give more information about the DCN and what we do, plus more on the role of the trustee.

For further information or an informal chat about the role please contact Sue Dean, the current chair, on [chair@dcnetwork.org](mailto:chair@dcnetwork.org). More information about general Trustee duties can be found at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.aspx#f3>