

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT INFORMATION PACK



The Food
Foundation

Does the thought of joining the board for a young, dynamic, impactful and independent UK charity working to influence food policy get you excited? Then read on for more information on how you can get involved...



WELCOME

The Food Foundation is a small but feisty organisation that was set up to address the growing food poverty in this country – and we mean poverty not just in terms of quantity of food but quality – healthy diets. We saw that children were arriving at school overweight and malnourished at the same time. We knew that families were struggling to feed their children. We identified that the food system was having a growing and worrying impact on climate change and biodiversity. We assessed that the food system was not serving society well and that policy was ignoring its responsibilities to ensure that we have a healthy population.

We created the Food Foundation to put the state of the nation's food on the public policy agenda, to raise the impacts of the food system with the businesses that sit at the heart of the transformation needed, and to galvanise influential voices to make the case for change in the food system.

When we set up the Foundation these issues were being ignored! Today the debate has started and is growing in urgency. We have not achieved what we need to yet but we are moving in a very positive way to drive change.

We have been blessed with an exceptional team and leadership that has enabled us as trustees to be proud, encouraging and supportive of all that they have done. As a result of the success of the team and their strong partnership work, we have been financially stable throughout our existence and forged new and surprising alliances with funders and influencers to further our activities.

As Trustees we set the ambition for the organisation and support the team in their journey to realise that ambition. Our approach to working with the team has been extremely collaborative and mutually supportive with each of our trustees offering different skills and complementing each other, and budding up with key members of the team.

We so hope that you will come on the next stage of our journey – we need change to support the missions of families unable to adequately feed their children, we need change to policy to stop force feeding our population with junk food and we need to aim for a healthy population and planet by changing policy and business practise.

Come and join us.

LAURA SANDYS

Chair & Founder of The Food Foundation



The Food
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ABOUT US

The Food Foundation is a young, dynamic, impactful and independent charity working to influence food policy to support healthy and sustainable diets, especially for those on a low income.

Working at the interface between academia and policy makers (parliamentarians, civil servants, local authorities, business leaders) we use a wide range of approaches to make change happen. This includes events, publications, media stories, social media campaigns and multi-stakeholder partnerships. We work with many partners on a range of different thematic areas, working closely with academics to generate evidence and campaigners who can drive change. We are independent of all political parties and businesses, and we are not limited by a single issue or special interest. We work with others who believe there is a problem with the system and want to change it. No two days are ever the same and the team thrives on working together to meet new challenges. We have a terrific and dedicated group of trustees and expert advisers who support our work.

During our first 7 years, we have become a vital part of the food ecosystem - depended on by business, government, civil society and the media for evidence and advice; and have helped to deliver some major policy and business commitments which make it easier for those on a low income to eat well.

Good food has the potential to transform social well-being in Britain and have major impacts on the incidence of disease and disability. Seven million people in the UK are living in poverty and facing food insecurity; four million of them are children and consumption of harmful junk food is at record levels.

Why we
need change

Our children's prospects

Trajectory for children born in 2021

● OVERWEIGHT ● OBESITY ● SEVERE OBESITY ● DEAD

AT AGE 5/RECEPTION: FORECAST 2026



AT AGE 11/YEAR 6: FORECAST 2031



AT AGE 21: FORECAST 2041

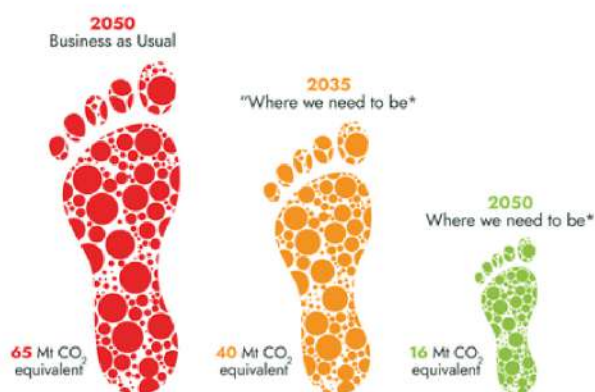


AT AGE 65: FORECAST 2086



Our planet's prospects

Dietary carbon reduction needed by 2050



*includes 20% less meat consumption by 2035, 35% less meat by 2050, 60% less waste by 2050, and farmers using low-carbon practices.



The Food
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We believe everyone in the UK deserves access to an affordable healthy diet.

We have various projects to reach different groups to improve children's diets, increase vegetable consumption, influence food policy and inspire change in food and retail businesses & how investment works. We are a small charity that has grown thanks to our success in responding to government announcements, quickly gathering interest and advocating in dynamic ways to create change in the food system.

- Our small enthusiastic and dedicated team makes us agile
- Our search for evidence-based solutions makes us impactful
- Our skills in shaping powerful coalitions and harnessing citizens' voices makes us collaborative.
- Our drive to identify new opportunities for action, and test new levers for change makes us innovative.

OUR VISION

We believe in a sustainable food system which delivers health and wellbeing for all.





Improving children's diets



Increasing vegetable consumption



Influencing food policy



Inspiring change in food businesses and investment

FILMS ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGNING WORK

Watch a short film about our latest Youth Ambassador action demanding more children get a Free School Meal here - [Westminster Protest - 19th September 2023](#)

Powerful short film hearing directly from one of our Adult Ambassadors about the effects of the cost-of-living Crisis - [They know we are here](#)

Marcus Rashford campaigning for expansion of the HAF scheme - [Marcus Rashford - End Child Food Poverty campaign](#)



TRUSTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION

Position: Voluntary

Special Conditions: Term of office is 3 years (plus a 3-year extension by mutual agreement)

Appointment date - May 2024

Trustee Responsibilities for The Food Foundation

The Board is responsible for supporting and holding to account the Executive Director and Senior Leadership Team. This includes ensuring appropriate governance of the organisation, overseeing overall strategy, managing strategic risk, monitoring financial performance and interrogating the big strategic choices and high-level decisions about the running of The Food Foundation. The Board also acts as the guardian of The Food Foundation's mission and values.

Comply with your charity's governing document and the law

Act in the best interest of The Food Foundation to make balanced and adequately informed decisions, thinking about the long term and short term.

Avoid putting yourself in a position where your duty to your charity conflicts with your personal interests or loyalty to any other person or body.

Manage our resources responsibly

Act responsibly, reasonably and honestly:

- make sure our assets are only used to support or carry out its purposes
- avoid exposing the charity's assets, beneficiaries or reputation to undue risk
- not over-commit the charity
- comply with any restrictions on spending funds or selling land

Responsible for having appropriate procedures and safeguards in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that these are followed.

Act with reasonable care and skill

Take reasonable care and skill, making use of your skills and experience and taking appropriate advice when necessary.

Have enough time, thought and energy to your role, for example by preparing for, attending and actively participating in all trustees' meetings.

Ensure your charity is accountable

Ensure we comply with statutory accounting and reporting requirements.

Skills Particularly Sought:

- Campaigning
- Fundraising
- Human resources
- Behavioural science for movements to gain societal change
- Political and policy networks for change



The Food
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SOME OF OUR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increasing veg consumption

Through our PEAS PLEASE INITIATIVE we aim to increase veg consumption through engagement with businesses, public authorities and communities. In the final year of funding for the programme:



1. Our business pledgers have delivered 1.2 BILLION additional portions of veg since 2018, up from 771 million last year
2. We funded 54 COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS involving 88 of our citizen advocates to test approaches for encouraging more people to eat veg, reaching approximately 2,700 people.

Improving children's food



WE AIM TO TACKLE childhood food insecurity and inequalities in childhood obesity. Our objective this year focussed on extending FREE SCHOOL MEALS – particularly as an emergency intervention in the cost of living. We also have also focussed on increasing uptake of HEALTHY START. Our campaigning this year has helped secure:

1. An extension of Free School Meals (FSM) to all children in primary

schools in London: £130MILLION of emergency funding set aside to expand provision of FSM to all Key Stage 2 children in London's state schools for the academic year 2023/4. An estimated 287,000 more children are set to benefit.

2. 17 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (2022: 3) in England are signed up to implement and evaluate the automatic enrolment of children eligible for free school meals onto the scheme.

Inspiring business and investor engagement

WE WANT COMPANIES TO BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE for the health and environmental impacts of their businesses. Our business and investor engagement has helped to secure:

1. Six supermarkets now publicly report data on their sales which come from healthy foods and have also set targets. Three supermarkets now publicly report data on their sales which come from fruit and veg and have also set targets. The numbers were five and two respectively last year, as Waitrose has now set a target and discloses sales data for both HFSS foods and fruit and vegetables.

2. Four retailers have taken action to improve access to affordable healthy food in line with our Kids Food Guarantee asks
3. The Investor Coalition for Food Policy now has membership from over 30 (2022: 23 investors) investors, with £6 trillion in assets under management. 120 people attended our first Investor Summit in February 2023.



Influencing food policy



WE AIM TO CHANGE food policy to deliver a much healthier, sustainable and more affordable diet through changing the food system. Our policy engagement work has helped to secure:

1. The Food Foundation as a go-to source of evidence on food insecurity and dietary inequalities, our food insecurity and food prices trackers and blogs had just under 49,000 views (2022: 35,000) and our flagship Broken Plate 2023 report has been viewed 14,233 times (2022: 7,386).
2. An inquiry into the adequacy of benefit levels by the Work and Pensions Committee following our advocacy on the disproportionate

levels of food insecurity among benefit claimants.

3. Establishment of the Health Working Group of the Food Data Transparency Partnership which can serve as a stepping stone towards mandatory reporting for food companies on the transition to healthy and sustainable diets
4. Launch of Recipe for Change in collaboration with Sustain and OHA. This is a new campaign calling for a food industry levy which builds on the success of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy
5. A comprehensive food strategy formally launched by Birmingham City Council

Further Information can be found in the Annual Report on our website.

Commitment to Diversity



The Food
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Our focus on inclusion and diversity at The Food Foundation is based on our belief that a diverse board means a board that is more innovative and creative, and ultimately pushes the organisation forwards. We want our board to represent the diversity of the people we support. Different experiences, expertise and perspectives are valued, and everyone is encouraged to grow and develop. This is why we are actively seeking to recruit a diverse group of trustees. We are flexible and understand everyone has different needs, so we will always try to find ways to accommodate them. Don't underestimate what you can bring to the role. Whether your experience is from your personal or professional life, you'll be able to share your skills, knowledge and experience with us to help thousands of people every year.

As part of our plans to increase the diversity of our Board at The Food Foundation, we particularly welcome applications from those who meet the skills profile set out above and throughout the document, and who have experienced food insecurity, as well as those from Asian, Black, and other ethnically diverse communities and young people who are currently underrepresented on our board.

We are open to applications from the private, public and voluntary sectors, those seeking their first Trustee role, as well as experienced Trustees who have the required expertise.





WHAT DO TRUSTEES DO?

Becoming a Trustee is a commitment and may seem daunting, but it is also very rewarding.

Learn more about charitable governance and being a trustee:

The Charity Commission has lots of resources, especially their 5-minute guides.

Getting on Board also is a great resource.

Also, have a look at the Charity Governance Code, which we have adopted at the Food Foundation.



OUR VALUES

- Collaborative
- Creative & innovative
- Trustworthy & credible
- Bold & impactful

Attending Meetings

Trustees are required to attend quarterly meetings.

Our meetings are usually held in the late afternoon. In-person attendance is preferred.

Key information before applying:

- You must be at least 18 years old
- You must be properly appointed following the procedures and any restrictions in the charity's governing document
- The role of a Trustee is voluntary and is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although expenses for travel may be claimed

You cannot be a Trustee if you...

- Are on the sex offender's register
- Have been found in contempt of court for making (or causing to be made) a false statement
- Have been found guilty of disobedience to an order or direction of the Charity Commission
- You must not act as a Trustee if you are disqualified under the Charities Act, including: - If you have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud) - Are bankrupt or have entered into a formal arrangement (e.g. an individual voluntary arrangement) with a creditor - Or you have been removed as a company director or charity trustee because of wrong doing.

OUR TRUSTEES

MEET OUR CURRENT TRUSTEES



HOW TO APPLY

Deadline to apply: Monday 8th April, 9AM.

The Recruitment Process

Please apply to office@foodfoundation.org.uk (with 'Food Foundation Trustee Application' as the subject) with a cover letter and up-to-date CV. Please use your cover letter to:

- Explain why you want to be a trustee for The Food Foundation.
- Briefly describe how you meet the skills we are looking for.
- Briefly describe your own lived experience, understanding and/or ally-ship on the issues surrounding equality, inclusion and diversity?
- Indicate where you saw this role advertised.

If shortlisted, candidates will be invited to interview on Thursday 2nd May. This will likely be in person at our office in Brixton, though is subject to change. Those unable to travel to London must specify this within their application.

A DBS check plus two references will be required if the role is offered.



The Food Foundation

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foodfoundation.org.uk

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