

The Belay Foundation

Applicant Information Pack Treasurer

Would you like to:

- **use your skills and experience in organisational finance and strategy to help some of the most vulnerable children in the UK?**
- **be part of a supportive, compassionate and thoughtful team who have created an effective, loved and respected service for adoptive, fostered and children in guardianships and their families?**
- **help a small user-led charity that has become reputationally successful and punches way above its weight to grow sustainably, yet at speed, into its next iteration and be able to serve more families?**
- **work in partnership with other organisations and universities to address not only the symptoms but the causes of distress and trauma in our young people and at the same time train the coming generations of psychologists, social workers and child-professionals?**

... then this role is for you!

Our staff work largely remotely and in the South West so most meetings are online. Our work is UK wide.

This Trustee role is an unpaid post but reasonable expenses will be paid.

Our board is a mixture of parents, care-experienced adults and professionals, and now we hope to attract more people with specific skills that will help us grow our capacity.

The Belay Foundation – useful background

Founded in June 2020 by Sarah Fry, a parent of two adopted children, and psychologist Jade Fullick, The Belay Foundation was created to meet an urgent need for practical ‘in-home’ support to families whose children have previously been in local authority care. It also provides opportunity for trauma-informed work experience and development for professionals and those in training. A gap existed in the care sector for an organisation to respond to what is felt as ‘crisis’ by many families, whilst giving valuable insight to individuals and universities into the practical management of trauma in families and communities.

We were awarded charity registration in December 2020 and were soon working with families and Local Authorities across the UK. The Belay Foundation understands that early developmental trauma can have profound impacts on children and the families, schools and communities who care for them, and that very positive outcomes can be achieved by early intervention and strong supportive networks.

Our main areas of focus are:

- finding, training and supporting people who can offer trauma-responsive childcare and respite to families;
- the provision of disability benefits advice to families and young people;
- training and support for professionals, parents and broader networks around the family in the impact of early-life trauma.

We would now like to increase the membership of our board of trustees, welcoming new voices to shape our work as we grow. We are particularly interested in applicants with previous experience of working with a growing small charity.

Currently, The Belay Foundation has a turnover of £60k and has supported over 250 families. Feedback from those families is very positive and reflects the change from crisis to coping, however, our waiting lists are full and we want to grow to the next level to respond to that need. Initially, we need to fundraise to create capacity to implement a sustainable business model to address our constantly increasing demand. Until now we have managed our finance strategy between ourselves, but as we grow we will need a revamp – and we need a steady hand to help us do that.

The Role of Treasurer: Role Description

As a young, growing charity, the board of trustees have the responsibility of growing our reach and developing our offering in line with our charitable aims.

As a trustee you will:

- Meet regularly (mostly online) with the other trustees to shape, drive and monitor the charity's strategy,
- Scrutinise the proper management and administration of the charity,
- Champion the charity's core values,
- Help develop the financial sustainability of the charity,
- Consider further service delivery in line with the charity's aims,
- Promote the work of the charity and develop contacts externally.

As Treasurer you will also:

- Support the development of operational financial processes, working creatively and supportively with the CEO and Chair to choose the right financial frameworks and tools for our needs,
- Present financial reports to the board so all trustees understand the charity's financial position,
- Advise the board on how to carry out its financial responsibilities,
- Oversee the preparation and scrutiny of annual accounts.

Ideally you will have experience of supporting the development of a small organisation.

The role of trustee is not paid but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

On joining the organisation there will be a full induction and support to fill in any gaps in understanding/training you may have about working for a trauma-aware organisation and appropriate knowledge of safe-guarding.

The Role of Treasurer: Person Specification

Essential:

- Ability to scrutinise financial processes and budgets
- Oversight of operations in an organisation
- Excellent communication skills
- Collaborative, enthusiastic and empathetic
- Able to offer 4+ hours per month in Trustee and other meetings and in small group/1:1 support.

Preferable but not essential:

- Experience of a trustee role
- Personal or professional interest in long term care of adopted children
- Experience in a growing organisation from its origins to its next stage

We particularly welcome applications from people who are Black, Asian and/or under 30 as they are currently under-represented on our Board.

Depending on experience you may need to attend online (or in person if you prefer) training on being a (specialist) board member and/or safeguarding.

How to Apply

Please send your CV and a covering letter to Alison Crowther, Chair of Trustees: ali@alisoncrowther.co.uk by midnight on Monday 15th January.