

ARCHITECTS
BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY



Architects Benevolent Society

We all need support sometimes

Trustee Recruitment Pack 2025

Who we are

Founded in 1850, Architects Benevolent Society is a well-established charity offering confidential advice, support and financial assistance to the architectural community and their families in times of need. We help past and present members of the wider architectural community and their families – from people just starting out in their careers, to those who are now in retirement.

We support:

- Architects
- Architectural Technologists
- Landscape Architects
- Architectural practice employees
- Dependants of any of the above
- Students of architecture, architectural technology, landscape architecture



Our values:



Responsive

We're passionate about helping people. Our flexible approach and dedicated team enables us to provide meaningful and dedicated support – often fast.



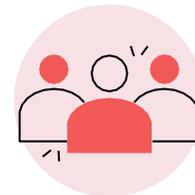
Compassionate

We value people and approach every person and situation with empathy, kindness and respect.



Improvement

We are driven to improve the lives of our community by continuing to learn from our collective experiences to grow, evolve and strive to do better.



Community focused

We are approachable and warm. We encourage collaboration and engage with the architectural community.



Inclusive

We are actively inclusive within our objectives as a charity. We have an equitable, welcoming and ethical approach, and value each person's unique life experience.

How We Help

When times are tough and things get overwhelming, ABS helps people get back on track. We work with partner organisations including Shelter and Anxiety UK, to provide holistic support with the aim of improving quality of life.

We hope to support people to reach a point where they no longer need our help.



Money & Debt

- Regular grants
- Essential living costs
- Emergency support
- One-off grants
- Welfare Benefits advice and support



Physical health & Disability

- Disability adaptations
- Health & disability advice
- Rehabilitation costs



Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Self-management support
- One to one therapy
- Workplace Wellbeing CPDs



Employment

- Job search support
- Redundancy support



Housing advice

- Specialist support and advice

Year in Review 2023-2024

We have helped

1631 people

Including children, spouses and other dependants of beneficiaries



Reaching out:

296 beneficiaries

(plus their dependants) were given financial help during the year.



Income:

£1,092,119

Totalling:

18% **82%**

Investments, rental and other
£893,497

Donations and legacies
£198,622



Expenditure:

£2,472,767

Totalling:

76% **24%**

Raising funds (including costs of investments)

Charitable expenditure
£1,885,280



Empowerment

225 new beneficiaries

benefitted from our advice and holistic support.



Mental Health Support

We funded therapy for **210 people**

through Anxiety UK and private therapists.



Direct financial help given:

£1,315,042

Totalling:

£1,062,343

given in regular grants.

Regular grants are given to help with living expenses.



£197,902

given in one-off grants

These are one off payments to cover essential costs.



Reason for applying for help by support service:

53%

Mental health



Financial

47%



Our trustees



Richard Brindley
Chair



Mark Grzegorzczuk
Trustee



Mark Hodgkinson
Honorary Treasurer



John Moakes
Trustee



Andy McLeish
Trustee



Rick McCluggage
Trustee



Sangeeta Shenoy
Trustee



Aled Rees
Trustee



What our Trustees do

Our Trustees currently meet three times a year for Board meetings and are there to respond to ad-hoc strategic matters as and when they arise.

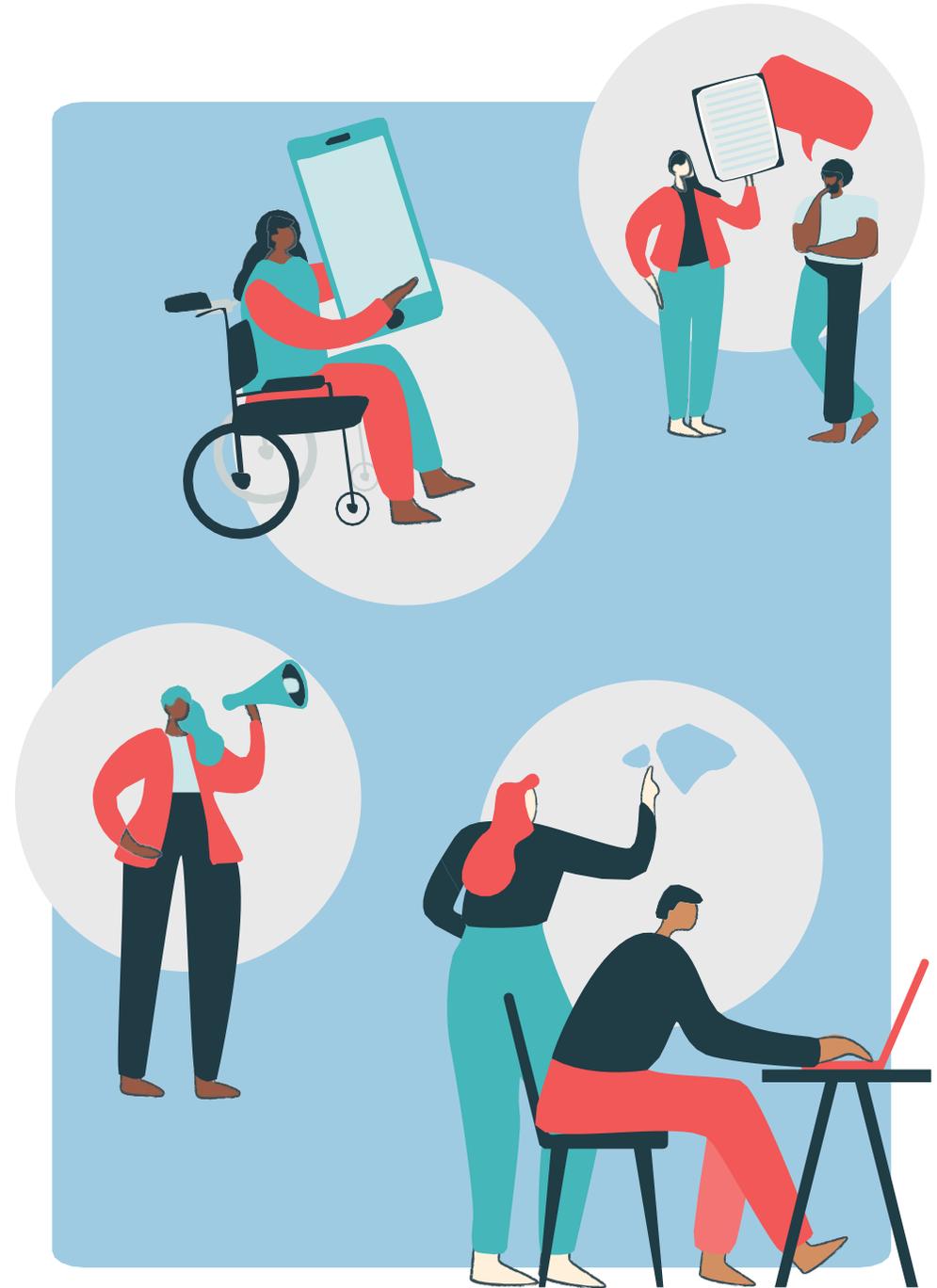
Our Trustees are responsible for providing strategic direction and making key decisions which fully reflect our core values and ensure we're delivering on our objectives.

We are currently seeking someone to join our Board of trustees.

Our Trustees are appointed for a three-year term, and can serve a maximum of three terms

on particular subjects related to their area of interest or expertise.

This is an unpaid role, but we reimburse expenses, for example childcare costs and travel costs so you can attend meetings.



Why our Trustees are so important

Some of the vital things you'll be doing include:

Using your unique skills and experience to help us meet our charitable objectives in the welfare support services we provide

Making sure our charity is fulfilling its mission and purposes for the communities we support

Checking that we are always following the law, as well as our own governing document

Checking that we are always following the guidelines as detailed in the Grant Giving Policy

Ensuring our resources are managed effectively.

Ensuring the Welfare Team is adequately resourced and supported

Working in the best interests of ABS and our beneficiaries

Who do we want on our Board?

We are looking for people who can demonstrate the following skills and values:

- A commitment to the charity, its purpose and values
 - Strategic vision
 - An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
 - Effective chairing skills for meetings
 - A willingness to devote the required time and effort
 - Ability to challenge in a constructive manner
 - Ability to work effectively as member of a team
 - Ability to interpret and evaluate management information
 - An understanding of charity governance
- **We are committed to having a diverse Board of trustees. We're looking to broaden our reach, welcoming applications from everyone and encouraging applications from people from underrepresented groups, including:**
- Living and working in England (outside Greater London) and in Northern Ireland
 - From an ethnically diverse or marginalised group
 - Gender identity other than male
 - Lived experience of financial hardship



How to apply

For further information or an informal chat about the role, please contact:

Simon Ashmore

simon.ashmore@absnet.org.uk

Applications should be by covering letter and CV and sent to the email address above.

We look forward to hearing from you!

ABS is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible recruitment process for all. If you would like to receive any information in a different way or would like us to do anything differently to help you apply for our roles, please get in touch.

