



Legal Trustees

Candidate Information Pack

May 2026



ASTON-MANSFIELD
Creating Stronger Communities



We are a locally rooted organisation that wants to see more children, young people and families in Newham and East London leading happy healthy lives, realising their potential and unlocking their ambition.

Aston-Mansfield

Welcome from our Chair

Aston-Mansfield is an established charity of long-standing, working to improve the lives of people living in the East End of London.

We work across Newham to create lasting change through an integrated model of support.

- Our youth programmes develop young leaders through our Changemakers and Young Facilitators projects.
- We work with children and families through our after-school and holiday programmes with wraparound support.
- Our team of Community Connectors deliver individualised, one-to-one support that improves mental health and the long-term life chances of our service users.
- The Fitter Finances Programme works to strengthen grassroots community organisations, helping them build the resilience that allows their communities to thrive.
- Our Community Centre, located in the heart of Manor Park, provides a safe and welcoming space for community groups to deliver targeted activities and services to all who live and work in Newham.

We are looking to recruit two new Trustees with legal expertise to join the boards of Aston-Mansfield and the Aston-Mansfield Community Trust (AMCT). To support the needs of each board, we would like to find people with experience in charity law, and in property law.



We are a Christian charity working with and for all faiths. We believe in supporting people to fulfil their potential, at work and at home, and have lives with meaning and contentment. Some of the families we support face challenging circumstances, many of the children attending our clubs have special education needs or fractured home lives and so look upon their time with us as a safe haven where they can relax and be themselves.

As a Trustee you can help us fulfil our ambitions for our young people and their families and our community, ensuring we provide good quality services in areas of significant deprivation and need, helping the next generation to grow and prosper.

We can offer you a collegiate and welcoming environment, interesting work and the chance to feel you are making a meaningful contribution to our organisation, and society. Board experience, albeit as a volunteer, can be very positive, offering career development not always available through our roles at work.

We hope you enjoy reading this Trustee Recruitment Pack and that our opportunities are of interest.

Amanda Whiteford

Chair of Trustees



About us

Who we are

[Aston-Mansfield](#) is a community charity with a proud legacy of over 140 years serving the people of Newham. The charity was formed in 2000 from the merger of two historic charities, Aston Charities Trust (ACT) and Mansfield Settlement (MS), both with deep roots in supporting disadvantaged communities in East London. ACT and MS provided vital social, educational, and housing services from the 18th century onwards, including pioneering initiatives like youth clubs, housing associations, and community centres. Today, Aston Mansfield continues this legacy by delivering services in Newham that address local needs through an empowering and community-focused approach.

Rooted in the heart of this vibrant borough, over 90% of our 35 staff and 48 volunteers are local residents, reflecting the rich diversity of Newham, one of the most culturally dynamic areas in the UK. With a population of over 350,000, including one of the youngest demographics in the country, Newham is a place of opportunity and rich diversity but also faces significant challenges, such as child poverty affecting half of households and having one of the highest rates of fuel poverty in England.



Our impact

In the past year, we directly supported 825 children and young people, 62 families in crisis, and over 200 adults with mental health challenges. Additionally, our community centres hosted activities for approximately 3,800 local residents, and we provided office space for 19 community organisations.



Aston-Mansfield's Impact Report

Our Impact Reports are your chance to see everything we have been up to. Each year we collect the data, photos, quotes and stories and put them together in an Impact Report. The report is the best way to see the impact we are having in the community.

You can view them by clicking [here](#).

Our vision, mission & values

Vision

We want to see more children, young people and families in Newham and east London leading happy healthy lives, realising their potential and unlocking their ambition.

Mission

Using an integrated and community focused approach we will make long-lasting change, offering opportunity, community and inspiration to children, families and young people in Newham and east London.

Aspirations & values

We want our environment to be:

- Warm and welcoming, keeping everyone safe
- Based on mutual respect, with staff and volunteers who are trustworthy
- Inclusive, where everybody has a voice and is heard
- Honest: doing what we say we will, and communicating clearly and transparently
- One which is nurturing and supports people to grow

We will

- Put children and young people first, and at the centre of what we do
- Support and encourage diversity and aim to treat everyone fairly
- Strive to be connected to local communities

Our strategy

Aston-Mansfield is undertaking a strategic review to strengthen and diversify its community development offer across Newham and East London. Building on its strong track record, the charity is exploring how to broaden programmes and income streams to respond to emerging community needs, increase impact, and improve long-term sustainability.

The review is in an exploratory phase, focused on identifying opportunities for growth across four core areas of delivery: children and transitional youth work; empowering young people; community development and capacity building; and community wellbeing. This evidence-led approach prioritises community insight, collaboration across teams, and careful assessment of where new or enhanced provision will add most value.



About the roles

Aston-Mansfield (AM) and the Aston-Mansfield Charitable Trust (AMCT) are sister charities based in Newham, East London, with shared origins in 19th-century philanthropic foundations. Aston-Mansfield is an operational charity that focuses on delivering services to children, young people, and families, and supports other not-for-profit organisations with resources, expertise, and training. AMCT manages an endowment, including investments and property holdings, which funds significant grants to Aston-Mansfield to support its core operations, including strategic development, marketing and communications, fundraising, financial management, and volunteer development.

We are looking for one legal trustee to join the AM Board and one to join the AMCT Board.

For the AM Board, we are particularly seeking someone with expertise in charity law, governance and compliance. For the AMCT Board, we are looking for expertise in property law and asset management.

A helpful summary of trustee roles and responsibilities can be found [here](#), and in more detail in the Charity Commission guidance for new Trustees: [The Essential Trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\)](#).

The Legal Trustees will bring strategic legal insight, constructive challenge and informed oversight to support strong governance, effective risk management and sound decision-making across the organisation. They will help the Board to understand its statutory responsibilities, governance duties and legal risk exposure, ensuring these are appropriately considered in Board discussions and decisions.

As with all trustees, the roles will operate within the principle of collective Board responsibility and won't involve providing operational legal services or acting in a formal legal advisory capacity.

The role can fit around existing commitments, professional and personal, and our trustees come from a range of backgrounds and sectors. Previous trustee experience isn't required, and you will be supported into the role through a full onboarding and induction process.

In addition to legal expertise, we are especially looking for applications from women and people from minoritised communities as we are keen to broaden both the diversity and gender balance of our Board.



"It's been amazing to see how much my son has grown in confidence. He comes home talking about everything he's learned, and it's great to know he has a safe space to be himself"

Parent

Legal Trustee job description

Location	London, Stratford/hybrid
Time Commitment	The role requires regular attendance at in-person Board meetings: AM holds five per year and AMCT hold four. There is also an in-person awayday every year. The overall time commitment is circa one to two days per month.
Salary	This is a voluntary role. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.

General responsibilities for all trustees

- Act in the best interests of Aston-Mansfield and further its charitable objects.
- Ensure the charity complies with charity law, regulatory requirements and good governance practice.
- Contribute actively to Board meetings, strategy discussions and decision-making.
- Uphold and promote the organisation's values, including being inclusive, respectful and collaborative.
- Provide appropriate support and constructive challenge to the CEO and senior leadership team.
- Safeguard the charity's reputation, financial sustainability and long-term effectiveness.

Specific responsibilities – Aston Mansfield legal trustee

Governance, Charity Law & Compliance

- Provide strategic advice to the Board on charity law, company law and trustee duties.
- Support the Board in understanding regulatory expectations, Charity Commission guidance and governance best practice.
- Contribute to the review and development of governing documents, policies and constitutional matters where required.
- Advise on the legal implications of strategic decisions, partnerships and new areas of work.

- Support the Board in identifying legal risks and determining when external specialist advice is required.
- Contribute legal insight to major contracts, funding agreements and partnership arrangements.
- Support the Board in maintaining proportionate and effective governance structures.
- Bring an independent perspective to discussions involving legal complexity or reputational risk.
- Bring external knowledge of legal developments relevant to the charity sector.
- Where appropriate, use professional expertise and networks to strengthen the organisation's governance and credibility.
- Act as an ambassador for the organisation and its mission.

Specific responsibilities – Aston Mansfield Charitable Trust legal trustee

Property & Asset Stewardship

Contributing at Board level to:

- Lease arrangements, landlord and tenant matters and property obligations.
- Capital works, redevelopment considerations and long-term asset planning.
- Strategic oversight of endowed land and property assets, including understanding restrictions, fiduciary responsibilities and Charity Commission guidance relating to permanent endowment.
- Risk exposure relating to premises, facilities and land holdings.
- Strategic decisions relating to property acquisition, disposal, development or change of use.
- Protecting and maximising the long-term value of property assets in alignment with the charity's objects.
- Support the Board in maintaining proportionate and effective governance structures.
- Bring an independent perspective to discussions involving legal complexity or reputational risk.
- Bring external knowledge of legal developments relevant to the charity sector.
- Where appropriate, use professional expertise and networks to strengthen the organisation's governance and credibility.
- Act as an ambassador for the organisation and its mission.

Who we're looking for

These roles are particularly suited to legal professionals with experience in charity law and/or property law, although wider legal expertise is welcome.

Essential

- Qualified solicitor, barrister or senior legal professional, or equivalent significant legal experience.
- Experience in charity law (advising charities or not-for-profit organisations) or property law (property portfolio oversight, lease negotiation or redevelopment projects).
- Understanding of the legal and regulatory environment in which charities operate.
- Strategic thinking skills, sound independent judgement and the confidence to challenge constructively.
- Commitment to Aston-Mansfield's mission, values and beneficiaries.
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties and responsibilities of trusteeship.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a board and build trusted relationships with senior staff.
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to their duties as a Trustee

Desirable

- Knowledge of public sector commissioning, contracts or partnership agreements.
- Understanding of risk management frameworks in small to medium-sized organisations.
- Local connection to Newham or understanding of the challenges facing urban communities.

Practicalities

Time Commitment

- The role typically requires around one to two days per month across the year (including preparation for meetings), with a little additional time during the initial induction period while getting up to speed.
- Five (AM0 or four (AMCT) in-person board meetings per year. Trustees should try to attend in person most of the time. One in-person Board Away Day per year.
- Appointments are usually for a term of three years with the possibility of a three-year extension followed by a one-year final term by mutual agreement up to a maximum term of seven years.
- We welcome the support of our trustees in participating and engaging in external events and networking to represent and promote the charity, where possible.

Safeguarding and Eligibility

- Subject to Enhanced DBS check.
- Trustees must uphold confidentiality and professional conduct.

Ready to apply?

[Eastside People](#) is supporting Aston-Mansfield in the recruitment of these roles. Please [click here](#) to apply by submitting your CV and a cover letter **both in Word doc format**.

Please use the cover letter (max 2 pages) as an opportunity to add to the information you have shared in your CV and ensure that you cover the following:

- Why are you interested in a Legal Trustee role at Aston-Mansfield?
- Having read the information pack, what relevant experience and skills do you feel you would bring to this role? This might come from paid work, study, community or voluntary work or other experience.

You are welcome to send your cover letter in writing, or as a video or audio clip, alongside your CV. Any video or audio submissions should be emailed to lucinda@eastsidepeople.org.

If you would like a call to discuss any of the roles in more detail, please email Lucinda Shaw to arrange a convenient time at lucinda@eastsidepeople.org. Having a call of this kind will not influence the success or otherwise of your application.

We want you to have every opportunity to demonstrate your skills, ability and potential. If you have a disability or require reasonable adjustments during the application or interview process, please contact us so we can support you appropriately.

The closing date for applications is 29 June. Shortlisting interviews with Eastside People will take place shortly after and shortlisted candidates will have an interview with Aston Mansfield during the week beginning 13 July.

Aston Mansfield is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, and we are keen to build boards that better reflect the communities we serve. We particularly welcome applications from women, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, and individuals with a local connection to Newham. We believe that diverse perspectives strengthen governance, improve decision-making and help us better support our communities.

Finally

We recognise that AI can be a helpful tool, but please use it with care and ensure your application is accurate, personal, and genuinely reflects you. We do not use AI in our sifting or selection process - a human reviews every application!

If you know anyone else who might be interested, please do share this information pack with them.





Eastside People

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