



Role Profile

Trustee

August 2022

About the College of General Dentistry

The College has been established to enhance public and patient benefit in dentistry, by promoting and supporting professionalism in general dental practice and primary care dentistry, engaging the whole dental team. Dentistry is rare amongst the healthcare professions in lacking its own college incorporated under Royal Charter, an omission which the College of General Dentistry aims to correct.

The College has been operating for one year, but builds on the 30 years of endeavour by the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) (FGDP(UK)), whose membership transferred to the College from the Royal College of Surgeons of England in July 2021.

The College has quickly established its place amongst the key stakeholder organisations in dentistry – well positioned to support dental professionals in addressing the healthcare challenges ahead.

The new College must secure its future, building on the very special opportunity presented in bringing together the wider professional community in dentistry.

The Trustee Board

The College is established as a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales (No.02586636), and as a Charity (No.1002769). The Trustees of the College are appointed within the Trustee Board, and work closely with the elected representative Council, to which the oversight of professional affairs is delegated.

There are currently six Trustees, including the Chair, Janet Clarke MBE. A vacancy has arisen on the retirement of Kate Gregory from the Trustee Board in October 2022.

The Trustee Board will therefore comprise:

- Chair
- Three additional Dentist Trustees
- Three independent Trustees

Trustees

Trustees are expected to draw upon their skills and experience to inform effective decision-making in the interests of the organisation as a Registered Company and Charity.

The Trustees have identified specific needs to ensure their skills and experience collectively include legal matters as they pertain to a Charity, and matters relating to the College's objectives as a professional body and member organisation.

Role profile

The role of a Trustee

1. Ensure that the College complies with its governing documents (the Articles of Association in particular), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulation;
2. Ensure the College pursues its proper Objectives;
3. Ensure the College applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives;
4. Contribute actively to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the College, setting overall policy, defining goals, and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets;
5. Safeguard the good name and values of the College;
6. Ensure the financial stability of the College;
7. Protect and manage the property and other assets of the College, and ensure the proper investment of the College's funds;
8. Appoint and support the Chief Executive Officer and monitor their performance.

In addition, individual Trustees are expected to employ any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees to reach sound decisions; leading relevant discussions, identifying key issues, and supporting initiatives with appropriate advice and guidance.

Minimum time commitment

The Trustee Board meets six times a year, in formal meetings typically of three hours duration. Most meetings are held online, and currently one meeting a year is held face to face, usually (but not always) in central London.

Trustees have the opportunity to engage further in the activities of the College, at occasional Fellows Receptions and other official events, which are typically organised in the evenings.

Person specification

Each Trustee must have:

- A commitment to the mission of the College
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Integrity
- Strategic vision
- Sound, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- A willingness to speak their mind
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties and responsibilities of trusteeship
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of the organisation

The Board of Trustees of the College collectively needs skills and experience in:

- Financial management, income generation and enterprise
- Higher Education and professional training, particularly in relation to healthcare
- Public policy and public affairs related to healthcare and dentistry in particular
- Governance, particularly in relation to professional and educational bodies
- Digital strategy
- Human resource management
- Funding in a professional body environment
- Collaborative partnerships, including internationally