



SETTING STANDARDS • SUPPORTING CAREERS

Role Profile

Trustee vacancies

November 2024

About the College of General Dentistry

The College of General Dentistry is the first independent college for primary care dentistry in the UK. A professional body and registered charity serving the public and patient interest in oral health, it is the UK's only medical college run by and for dental professionals and welcomes all oral health professionals into membership. Supporting professional development and recognition for the whole dental team, it is building on the achievements of the former Faculty of General Dental Practice of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FGDP) in setting standards for general dental care.

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

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 Council to which the oversight of professional affairs is delegated.

There are currently seven Trustees, comprising:

- Chair
- Three additional dental professional 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 skills and experience collectively required by the Board in order to deliver the responsibilities of the Board – see ‘Personal Specification’ below.

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 four 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, and is followed by a Trustee workshop.

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
- Entrepreneurial development in a not-for-profit context
- Membership and professional body development
- 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