

GOOD DESIGN CAN HEAL



TREASURER

Candidate Brief 

November 2024

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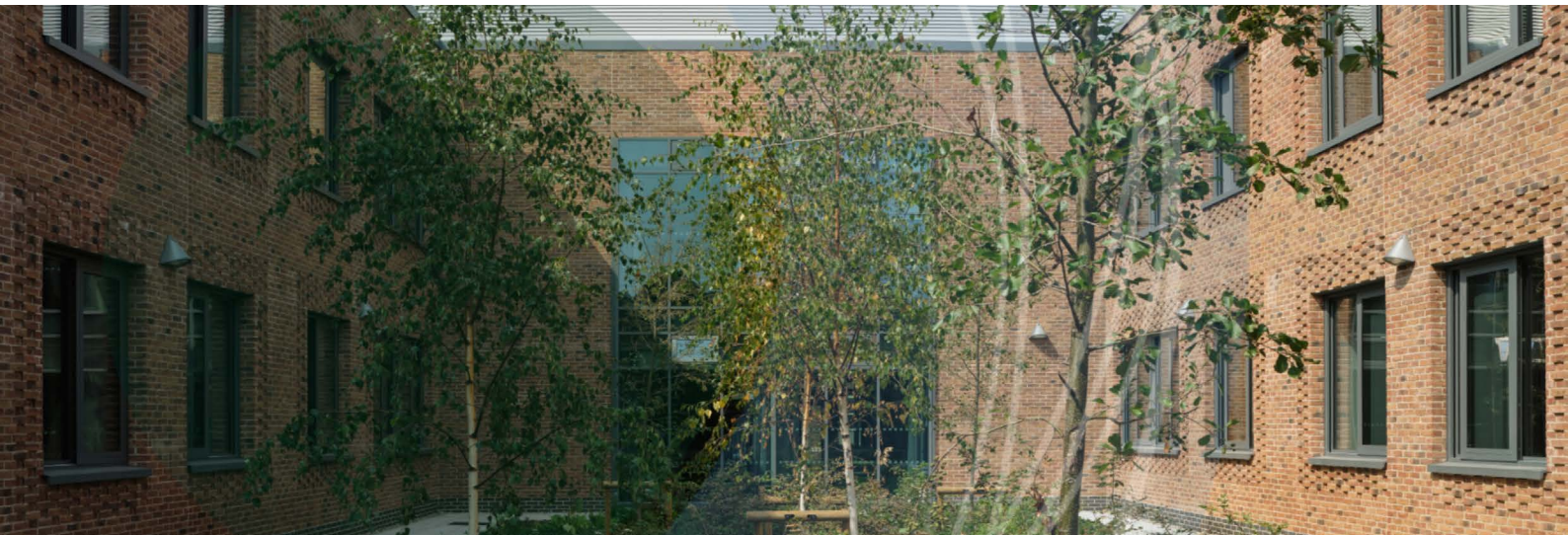
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WELCOME

Design in Mental Health Network is at an exciting stage on its journey; an organisation that has been going since 2006 – created by a Network of passionate people involved in mental health design, with a collective view that we need to improve the quality of these spaces – but is now aiming to be more ambitious.

People with lived experience, and staff tell us the current approach to mental health care and the spaces where



this care happens, is just not working or sustainable. Meanwhile, waiting times to access care are still measured in months, in some cases years.

Following an extensive strategic review mid-2024, we've decided that we want to be braver and bolder with our approach to improving mental health design; taking our research, approach of co-production and people with lived experience to proactively platform this with policy makers and decision makers.



We want to actively challenge the status quo, using research and our design skills to reimagine radical new ways of approaching mental health care that improve the outcomes for patients and make these spaces better places to work for the staff on the front line. We'll always do this from the view of what is best for the person receiving care, using the built environment as a platform for lasting stabilisation or recovery from mental ill health.

Looking forward to this exciting time we are seeking a Treasurer to join our board who will bring the finance skills and experience that will help us develop, implement and drive a plan to see our ambitious vision come to fruition.

There is growing appetite globally for what we do, with a group of interested people forming in the US and Canada as they invest significant sums in new buildings.

Over the past year, we've also been strengthening our board to better support our new Chief Executive.

Philip Ross
Chair of Trustees



ABOUT US

Design in Mental Health Network (DiMHN) is a registered charity, which aims to improve mental health outcomes by promoting knowledge exchange, co-production involving the voice of people with Lived Experience and challenging the status quo of mental health design.

We are a network of experts whose perspectives, thoughts, insights, opinions are grounded in research, professional qualification and/or lived experience. The collective includes a wide range of stakeholders involved in planning for, designing, building, managing and using spaces that impact on our mental health.

We believe the better the design brief is in determining and matching the evidenced needs of all users, the better the goal of improving the actual design of settings to support better mental health care and patient outcomes will be.

Good design facilitates human connection (therapeutic/supportive relationships) and to this end we advocate to engage and influence people with decision making capabilities and/or budget control, to understand how to use existing resources more effectively in leading to better mental health outcomes.





We seek to maximise our reach and influence by working in collaboration with likeminded but complimentary policy and delivery organisations including Mind/Shelter/Centre for Mental Health, The Design Council, Universities, NHS Confederation, and others.

Our growing network is open to anyone with an interest in the design of mental health environments. Our members cut across disciplines – architects, designers, lived experience experts, estates planners, clinicians.

Together we can make a difference to mental health design and the impact it has on therapeutic outcomes.

Download our latest [Annual Report](#)

Vist our website at dimhn.org

Our work

We have four main areas of activity.

Testing products for informed choices

Until now there has been no formal process across the NHS or private sector for reliably testing or assessing products' suitability for use in mental health environments. This meant that clinicians have had to rely on manufacturers claims – or take the responsibility of testing themselves.

To solve this problem, DiMHN has partnered with Building Research Establishment (BRE) and worked with over 100 experts from the field during the past seven years to create a global testing method for all products used in mental health.

This is not a pass or fail test. It's a way to grade products for their suitability for a range of different clinical uses so that teams can make informed choices.

Find out [more](#)



Membership – community engagement

We are a membership organisation that seeks to engage individuals and organisations with an interest and influence in the design of environments that can lead to better outcomes for people living with mental ill health.

The benefits we offer our members include:

- Keeping up to date with industry news and trends.
- Connecting with peers.
- Access to our compilation of international research.
- A membership profile across our network.
- Discounted exhibition and conference deals and advertising for commercial partners.
- Being able to consult with Lived Experience Experts.

Research and education

DiMHN, through our board members Professor Paula Reavey of London Southbank University, and Professor Steven Brown of Nottingham Trent, has led the field in evidencing best practice in the mental health built environment, by collating and disseminating the evidence in a series of highly acclaimed booklets, 'Design with People in Mind'.

These booklets are available to members as a download and printed copies are available at our conference. Together they provide an overview of research suitable for a target audience of busy designers and practitioners.

'Research is going on all over the world and keeping track is hard work. We should be celebrating the amount of interest there is in the connections between design and mental health. It's a lot of leg work, but it's worth it.'

Professor Paula Reavey, Professor of Psychology, Honorary Research Consultant: St. Andrew's Healthcare, and Clinical Psychology Director for Postgraduate Research: School of Applied Sciences.

International work

Design in Mental Health Network has always attracted a global audience at our annual conference and exhibition as one of the largest dedicated mental health design events in the world. People recognise the UK as a leader in this field, with key leaders joining from across the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand across Scandinavia.



Over the past year, we have created a local working group of design leaders across North America and well under way with creating a plan for establishing a local chapter to take on our approach to help improve the quality of mental health settings here.

Our annual conferences

Our flagship event takes place in June and attracts attendees from around the world.

The Design in Mental Health Conference, Exhibition and Awards

is the annual event where organisations and professionals interested in advancing the cause of good design in mental health settings meet to learn, share and explore collaboration.

The event is organised by Step Exhibitions in partnership with Design in Mental Health Network. There is a profit share arrangement between the two organisations.



The event is for anyone involved in the design, build, equipping, refurbishment, or management of facilities for mental health treatment, or are a clinician or academic in the field of mental health. It is a place to be informed and inspired, share experience and best practice, discover new products and solutions, and to have meaningful conversations on the issues that matter.

Find out more about the [DiMHN Conference](#)



CONTEXT FOR THE APPOINTMENT

DiMHN is a small organisation, but it is one with big ambition.

With our members and our partners, we are seeking to scale the operation to increase our reach and influence.

The charity is in a strong position to be able to achieve this ambition. We are in a financially strong and stable position. Our Annual Conference/Exhibition (in partnership with Step Exhibitions) is a well-respected industry event which generates a consistent level of income.

Reliance on this one source of income does, however, represent something of a risk if anything were to prevent it from taking place so part of the scaling of the operation will require us to increase income and diversify our income streams. There is scope to derive further commercial benefit from what we already do, e.g. our awards programme, as well as to explore potential voluntary income sources such as trusts and foundations.

We do not, however, see ourselves developing as an organisation that offers consultancy. It is through greater advocacy and influence that we will be able to attract more support.

We are at present also seeking to appoint our next Chief Executive who will to harness the energies and expertise of the trustees, members and strategic partners and people with lived experience to achieve sustained growth through increased influence.



TREASURER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role overview

As a Trustee with a focus on the Treasurer role, you will play a vital part in ensuring the financial stability and integrity of DiMHN. You will work closely with the Board of Trustees and the Chief Executive to oversee the financial management of the charity, providing strategic guidance and ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Key responsibilities

Financial oversight

- Provide oversight of the charity's financial affairs to ensure its financial viability.
- Ensure that proper financial records and procedures are maintained.
- Monitor the financial administration of the charity and report to the Board of Trustees at regular intervals.
- Develop a cash reserves policy in compliance with Charities Commission requirements to maintain the financial stability and sustainability of DiMHN.

Budgeting and reporting

- Assist in the preparation of the annual budget and monitor financial performance against it.
- Present financial reports to the Board, including monthly management accounts, forecasts, and cash flow statements.
- Review the preparation of the annual accounts by our external accountants and ensure they are submitted to the relevant authorities in a timely manner.



Compliance and governance

- Ensure DiMHN complies with financial regulations and reporting requirements.
- Oversee the charity's risk management process.
- Liaise with external accountants and ensure any recommendations are implemented.

Strategic planning

- Contribute to the development and implementation of the charity's strategic plan.
- Provide financial input into the charity's fundraising strategy and business plans.

Trustee responsibilities

- Act in the best interest of DiMHN, maintaining confidentiality and integrity.
- Attend and actively participate in Board meetings and sub-committees as required.
- Along with the other members of the board, ensure that DiMHN pursues its objectives as defined in its governing document.





PERSON SPECIFICATION

Experience and skills

Proven experience as a Treasurer or in a similar financial role within a small charity.

- Strong financial management skills, including budgeting, forecasting, and reporting.
- Experience of charity accounting principles and regulatory requirements.
- Ability to analyse financial information and present it in a clear, understandable format.

Personal attributes

- Commitment to the mission and values of DiMHN.
- Strategic vision and independent judgement.
- Integrity, objectivity, and accountability.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to the role.

Time commitment

Approximately 8-12 hours per month, including attendance at Board meetings (typically every six weeks).

Location

- Most board meetings take place online, using Teams.
- We aim to have three in-person meetings - one full day strategy meeting, and two board meetings.
- You would be expected to attend our annual conference



Term

Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, with the possibility of renewal.

Eligibility

You must be at least 18 years old to be a trustee of The Library and not be disqualified from acting as a trustees. For further guidance on eligibility The Essential Trustee.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion

At the Design in Mental Health Network (DiMHN), we are committed to creating an inclusive environment where all individuals are valued and respected. We believe that diversity brings strength and innovation to our organisation, and we are dedicated to promoting equality of opportunity for all.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community and are committed to promoting equal opportunities in employment. We strive to ensure that our recruitment process is fair and accessible to all, and we will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate any individual needs.

We actively seek to improve representation and participation of underrepresented groups within our organisation and encourage applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences to help us better reflect the communities we serve and to enhance our understanding of the issues faced by those with lived experience of mental health challenges.

If you require any adjustments or support during the recruitment process, please contact us and we will do our best to meet your needs.



HOW TO APPLY

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact our recruitment partner:

Simon Lloyd Director | NFP Consulting
07961 988 523 simon.lloyd@nfpconsulting.co.uk



Application is by way of CV initially.

Apply online at www.nfpconsulting.co.uk/dimhntreasurer

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.