

The Loss Foundation



Trustee Search & Selection

AUGUST 2026

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Welcome

DR ERIN HOPE THOMPSON MBE (FOUNDER & CEO)

The Loss Foundation began with a simple belief: nobody should have to grieve alone.



Since 2012, we've created spaces where people can connect with others who understand what they're going through. What began with support for people bereaved by cancer is now entering an important new chapter.

We want to reach many more people, build a sustainable future for the charity and become the UK's leading provider of group-based grief support and bereavement training.

We're looking for trustees who want to help us get there. People who share our values, bring curiosity and strategic thinking, and aren't afraid to challenge us as well as champion us.

You'll be joining a small organisation with big ambitions – and a community of staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters who care deeply about making sure fewer people have to face grief alone.

OUR VALUES:

Personable

Compassionate

Honourable

Bold

Progressive

Welcome

SARAH DAVID (CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

We're a small charity with big ambitions – and we're looking for people who want to help shape what comes next.



Thank you very much for considering applying to join The Loss Foundation Board. This is a perfect role for someone who wants to make a real difference to people who are grieving someone they love, and who appreciates and embraces smaller organisations with big ambitions.

As a Board, we want to welcome people with a breadth of experience in life and work who can support and challenge the executive team as we expand our group support across the UK and grow our training. While these roles are unremunerated, they offer a sense of meaning, purpose, camaraderie and impact.

We are a Board that cares for one another, are willing to disagree, agreeably and are wholeheartedly engaged in the plan for The Loss Foundation to reach thousands of people in the coming years. Thanks again for your consideration.

Our story

The Loss Foundation started with connection.

When our founder, Dr Erin Hope Thompson MBE, experienced the death of her father from cancer, she saw first-hand how isolating grief could be, and how difficult it was to find the right support. The Loss Foundation was created in 2012 to change that.

“We are embarking on a new strategy to broaden audience participation, become the sector’s recognised grief training expert, and extend our cutting edge research.”

Since then, thousands of people have found connection through our groups and events. Now we're ready for our next chapter: taking what we've learned from cancer bereavement to reach more people experiencing grief, whatever the circumstances.

WE DO THREE MAIN THINGS...

SUPPORT

Online + in-person groups + Walk & Talks, bringing together people who understand, led by trained volunteers.

TRAINING

Helping managers + employees to confidently support grieving colleagues. Clients include RSPCA, BT and The Natural History Museum.

RESEARCH

Advancing bereavement support through research + scientific publications.

...continued:

In 2025/26, 2,000 people found support and connection through our groups and events, including at least 12 dedicated support groups each month. We delivered 27 Walk & Talk events across 10 national locations.

We delivered this support free of charge to all those who attended, through our 51 volunteers, who also receive clinical support and supervision. Income from our bereavement training helps us keep this support free.

We believe too few people have heard of us and so this year we have launched a new fundraising initiative, The Founding 500, which is building a 500-person community. As a small charity, we want to recognise the impact that small-but-consistent individual giving can generate, and enable us to spread awareness to the 150,000 families affected by cancer loss each year.

As our charity approaches its 15-year anniversary, we are embarking on a new strategy to broaden audience participation, become the sector's recognised grief training expert and extend our cutting-edge research.

"In 2025/6, we supported 2,000 people through a combination of our tailored events."

**GRIEF IS FOR EVERYONE.
SO ARE WE.**

Most participants come to us following the loss of a parent or partner, but we also support siblings, young adults and many others.

GRIEF ISN'T AGEIST.

Our participants range between 20 - 80 years of age.

In our community's words:

"A massive thank you for the incredible support that you have given me"



"I just wanted to say thank you for Saturday's 'tea and tips' workshop and the notes that you kindly emailed afterwards. I haven't done anything like that before, I think I have been hanging out in hope of a personal face to face connection, but I am so pleased that I joined... Thank you so much for offering me a flicker of light amongst the darkness."

"Thank you so much for a very wonderful evening. It is so heartwarming and beautiful to be with others who have walked a similar path. We just understand each other. You are wonderful people"

"I don't know how healing happens but it happens here"

"The Loss Foundation – no pressure, just excellent support"



Meet our team:



We're a small team, but a much bigger community.

Four members of staff work alongside our Board and a network of 51 volunteers, including accredited clinical psychologists, who make our impact possible.

Our volunteers are at the heart of The Loss Foundation – leading groups and events, sharing their experience and creating spaces where people experiencing grief can connect with others who understand.

We also work with two brand ambassadors, Freddie Rand and Luke Alfano, who support our cause and spread the word to those who could benefit from further help with their grief.



Why become a trustee?

Help shape what comes next.

We're at an important point in The Loss Foundation's story. We're broadening who we support, growing our national reach, developing our training and strengthening the charity for the future.

As a trustee, you'll have a genuine voice in that next chapter.

- Use your experience to help more people find support when they're grieving
- Help shape the strategy of a small, ambitious national charity
- Work alongside a committed Board, team and volunteer community
- Bring your perspective – and challenge ours
- Help grow an organisation combining clinical expertise with lived experience
- See the impact of your contribution at close hand

GRIEF CAN BE AN EQUALISER.

Our service users have a broad range of backgrounds and experiences.



About you, our new trustee

You don't need to have Trustee experience, nor do you need to have experience of loss through cancer. We are looking for people who can give the time and energy to supporting and challenging a small charity with a national footprint to reach more people.

We ask all our Board members to:

- Represent The Loss Foundation, raising its profile across the UK
- Support and promote our fundraising initiatives
- Champion the work of the Chief Executive and management team
- Demonstrate ambition and enthusiasm for our mission
- Devote the necessary time and effort to ensure success of the Board
- Think strategically, with curiosity and creative thinking
- Demonstrate sound independent judgment
- Be an effective team worker, listening and respecting the views of others
- Adhere to and help ensure the Board is aligned with the Seven Principles of Public Life

All trustees are also bound by the legal duties outlined in the Charity Commission's "The Essential Trustee" and the Charity Governance Code

Additional, desirable skills:

- Experience in developing and implementing strategy at a small organisation; or
- Expertise in mergers and organisational rebranding; or
- Expertise in training products in the corporate, public or charitable sectors; and/or
- Skills and expertise in one or more of:
 - fundraising,
 - marketing,
 - HR,
 - digital.

We are open to applications from people without previous board experience

Joining us as a trustee:

When you join, we'll give you a full induction, including one to one meetings with fellow Trustees, the Chair and The Loss Foundation team.

We are open to applications from people without previous board experience and therefore we will also help identify governance training opportunities in the sector.



Time commitment:

We currently meet as a Board four times a year, including an in-person Trustee and TLF Management Away Day. All Trustees have a working group or area of expertise that they contribute outside of Board meetings.

Overall, the role requires around 10 days a year, including preparing for and attending meetings, events and working groups.

Meetings normally last 2-3 hours and are planned in advance for the following months: January, April, July, October.

Trustees are asked to commit to one three-year term, with the option of serving a second term, of three years, subject to Board approval.

Recruitment timelines, your application:

Why we're recruiting now:

Over the course of the next year, we have three trustees whose full (6+ year) terms are coming to an end. To enable smooth transition, we intend to stagger trustee appointments at set dates across FY2026/7, subject to agreement with the successful applicant.

How to apply:

Please submit your CV (maximum three A4 pages) with a covering letter (maximum two A4 pages) which answers the following two questions:

1. Why The Loss Foundation?
2. As trustee, how will you effectively support our mission and strategic ambition?

Please address your application to:

Vikki Jessop (*Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees*)
vikki@thelossfoundation.org

Application deadline: Friday 4th September, 5pm

Applicants that are invited to interview will be invited for an informal online meeting with the CEO w/c 17th September

Interviews: will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on 23rd and 24th September.