



Tom's Trust Trustee - Role Description

We are looking for new Trustees to join our committed and enthusiastic Board which currently comprises an Independent Financial Advisor, a Clinical Psychologist, a Senior Vice President responsible for marketing and alliances of a technology company and a Family Doctor. We are, therefore, particularly looking for people with legal and accountancy experience to complement the team and help enhance the lives of children with brain tumours and their families.

The Board meets every two months in Cambridge and it is expected that trustees will use their best endeavours to attend these meetings including by dial-in when necessary. We are very keen that we all play a significant part in the running and strategy of the charity, so active participation is a must.

Where appropriate, individual trustees work closely with employees of the charity, supporting and mentoring them and working on matters which involve their areas of expertise. It is expected that new trustees will similarly engage.

1 About Tom's Trust – Who we are and what we do

Team Tom are dedicated to providing Clinical Psychology for children with brain tumours within UK hospitals. Our Clinical Psychologists work within a pioneering team ensuring that the children have access to tailored rehabilitation enabling them to reach their full potential.

Our first team of Clinical Psychologists work within a service called Brainbow based at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Our Clinical Psychologists work within this unique service, supporting children with brain tumours and their families from the point of diagnosis, throughout treatment and beyond. Tom's Trust was set up in July 2011 by Debs and Andrew Whiteley as a legacy to their only son Tom, who died in November 2010, just seven months after being diagnosed with a malignant medulloblastoma brain tumour.

Our first aim is to continue to support and improve the Clinical Psychology provision at Addenbrooke's, Cambridge.

Our second aim is to identify and work with other UK hospitals.

Our third aim is to raise awareness of children with brain tumours. Although the number of children diagnosed each year is small compared to other childhood cancers, this figure is accumulative, with every child needing rehabilitative support from the point of diagnosis.

2. Why Psychology?

- **Brain tumours are the most common cause of cancer deaths in children under 15.**
- **Approximately 10 children and young people are diagnosed with a brain tumour each week.**
- **1500 children are diagnosed annually with cancer and a third of these will have a Central Nervous System (CNS) tumour. 95-98% of these will be brain tumours.**
- **62% of children who survive a brain tumour are left with a life-altering, long-term disability.**
- **Children treated for brain tumours have the greatest need for rehabilitation of all children treated for cancer.**

Psychological support for both the child who has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and their family is crucial and we believe it is required and essential from the point of diagnosis. A child with a brain tumour is a brain injured child. The devastating effects can include blindness, loss of hearing, acute anxiety, as well as varying degrees of physical and learning difficulties.

Our Paediatric Oncology Clinical Psychologists are the key part of the multi-disciplinary team and are able to offer support at all stages of a child's journey. They are trained in child development and learning and specialise in a range of therapeutic approaches to meet the needs of both the child and their family, they look at the whole child as an individual. For a family who have lost a child, a Clinical Psychologist can offer bereavement follow up for both the parents and siblings.

After treatment Children can be left with cognitive difficulties; sometimes these can be subtle and missed by the school, other times they can be marked and seriously impact on life. Physical,

emotional and cognitive rehabilitation is so important, and a specialised team is often required to undertake this. As a member of this team, our Clinical Psychologists can uniquely offer neuropsychological testing to help both a school and parent understand their child's difficulties in thinking, remembering and processing. They can work with schools to ensure that the environment is suitable, and the child is supported to enable he/she to reach their full potential and promote normal developmental progression.

"All children with a brain tumour should be offered neuropsychological testing upon diagnosis and follow up by a clinical psychologist."

Every child has the right to return to a normal life and fulfil their potential, Clinical Psychology is the key to allowing this. **We are the only UK Charity providing Clinical Psychology for children with cancer.**

3. The role of a trustee

Charity trustees have specific legal responsibilities. These include:

- Being responsible for directing the affairs of the charity
- Ensuring it is solvent and well-run
- Ensuring it delivers the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up
- Ensuring the charity complies with charity law, its own governing document and other relevant legislations
- Ensuring that the charity's funds and assets are used only to fund the objects (or purpose) of the charity
- To avoid undertaking activities that might place the charity's funds, assets, endowments or reputation at risk
- To use reasonable skill and care in their work as trustees
- To consider getting external professional advice when appropriate e.g. if there is material risk to the charity
- To act with integrity and avoid personal conflicts of interest or misuse of charity funds and assets

To apply for this role please email debs@tomstrust.org.uk