

About Access – The Foundation for Social Investment

Charities and social enterprises play a crucial role in addressing some of society's most complex social issues, but often need additional capital to do so. These social organisations can have greater difficulty than commercial enterprises in accessing finance; a challenge which social investment seeks to address. Recently there has been significant growth in the social investment market, with over thirty Social Investors in England offering access to capital. However, gaps remain in the market for appropriate finance and capacity building support, particularly for earlier stage social organisations.

Access is a charitable foundation, established in late 2014, whose role is to make it easier for charities and social enterprises in England to access the capital they need to grow and increase their impact. We work to bridge the gap between charities and social enterprises on one side and social investors on the other, helping to make social investment more aligned to the needs of the social sector. We are doing this by:

1. Funding organisations to run grant and support programmes for charities and social enterprises;
2. Funding organisations to make small loans to charities and social enterprises; and
3. Sharing the learning from how these programmes work.

Access is a small organisation, but it has a big vision - to open up social investment more widely. Its trustees determine the strategy of the organisation and work closely with an ambitious team to support the development of the social investment market. Together with its partners, Access has made an exciting start to its challenging mission.

Role Description

Access is recruiting a trustee to join its Board, currently comprising 8 trustees. Whilst the trustee will join other trustees in contributing to the overall strategy and supporting Access's executive,

we are particularly looking for someone who has extensive experience of senior leadership roles in charities or social enterprises, ideally with experience of seeking to raise investment.

In more detail, the role of the trustees is to:

- Shape and drive the strategy of the Access Foundation
- Ensure that Access's work remains relevant to the evolving needs of charities and social enterprises
- Help support Access and our partners to expand the reach of social investment initiatives across the charity and social enterprise sector
- Guide, support and monitor the work of the chief executive and his team
- Ensure legal compliance, including with regulatory requirements or contractual or restricted grant arrangements
- Promote the work of Access externally
- Ensure the proper management and administration of the charity

Person Specification

Access is seeking candidates who offer some or all of the following:

- Experience and understanding of the social sector across the UK, particularly its financial and support requirements
- Experience of decision making and/or of leadership in a social sector organisation
- Ability to communicate effectively with social sector professionals about the mission/vision of Access
- Reasonable understanding of legal, audit and other regulatory requirements of a charity
- Understanding of the development of the social investment market

In addition to the expertise outlined above, candidates will need to demonstrate the following competencies:

- **Strategic direction and judgement:** Trustees need to have the ability to think and plan ahead. S/he will need to have the ability to draw on a wealth of experience to consider a wide range of factors when making a decision.
- **Effective influencing and stakeholder management:** Trustees need to be strong communicators with the ability to positively build the profile of Access externally.
- **Commitment:** Each trustee should be able to devote the necessary time to prepare and to participate actively in achieving the mission of Access.

- **Team working:** Each trustee should be committed to working with other Board (where relevant Committee) members to act in the best interests of Access.
- **Keeping up-to-date:** Being aware of the developments in the social investment market and the broader social sector landscape, particularly when these directly impact on Access.

The trustee will also need the following personal qualities:

- **Integrity:** The trustee will possess integrity in all his/her dealings and interactions at all times
- **Passion:** The trustee must be able to demonstrate their conviction about the social sector and their passion and intellectual interest in the subject.
- **Intellectual ability:** The trustee will possess intellectual ability and the ability to work in a different model and to understand complex governance.

Terms of appointment

Time commitment

This role is likely to involve a time commitment of up to one day per month – this will include participating in one of the Board's sub-committees as required.

Location

Access's offices are located in central London, where trustee meetings are usually held.

Remuneration

As the Access Foundation is a charity, this is a voluntary role. However, trustees are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

Application process

For more information on Access, please also visit the website: <http://access-socialinvestment.org.uk/>. If this role is of interest, please e-mail your CV, together with a covering letter to applications@access-si.org.uk by Wednesday, 29 March 2017.