



**About Access – The Foundation for Social Investment**

Access is a charitable foundation, established in late 2014. Our aim is to make charities and social enterprises in England more financially resilient and self-reliant, so that they can sustain or increase their impact.

We do this through supporting the development of enterprise activity and improving access to social investment. Access was created to exist for a decade, but the need for this work will continue well beyond that. So our approach is to work through others to create partnerships which can outlive us, test and learn from new approaches, and generate knowledge which improves the work of others seeking the same goals.

We are now entering the second phase of our ten year life. We have learned a great deal from our first few years, and over the next five years, will have three strands to our work:

1. Supporting a broad range of enterprise development activities in partnership with other foundations, social investors, sector infrastructure bodies and enterprise advisors. This support will help charities and social enterprises to earn more of their own income and, where required, be able to utilize social investment to further stimulate that enterprise activity.
2. Managing and promoting blended finance models which bridge the gap between charities and social enterprises on one side and social investors on the other. These models help make the social investment easier to find and more relevant for charities and social enterprises, and help social investment reach parts of the sector which are yet to benefit.
3. Listening to the changing needs of the sector and learning from our programmes in order to change how we and others who support charities and social enterprises work; and building systems which make that knowledge easier to understand and use for the long term.

Access is a small organisation, but it has a big vision. Its trustees determine the strategy of the organisation and work closely with an ambitious team to support this vision. Together with its partners, Access has made an exciting start to its challenging mission.

## **Role Description**

Access is recruiting for a trustee to join the Board in early 2018. The new trustee will join other trustees in contributing to the overall strategy and supporting Access's executive. However 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 Access
- 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 are seeking candidates who offer some or all of the following:

- Experience and understanding of the social sector across the UK, particularly its capacity 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: <https://access-socialinvestment.org.uk/us/vacancies/>. If this role is of interest, please e-mail your CV, together with a covering letter to [applications@access-si.org.uk](mailto:applications@access-si.org.uk) by Friday, 16 February 2018. Please also include in your covering letter how you came to be aware of this role. Interviews will take place on the afternoon of Thursday, 15 March 2018 with the trustee in post from April 2018.