

## About Wirral Mencap

We are an independent charity, completely separate to the national organisation Royal Mencap Society but affiliated by way of an overall mission – to advance equality for people with a learning disability and their family carers.

We have supported local people since 1963 but have continuously adapted and developed our approaches to meet changing needs. The organisation began delivering more intervention-based services in 2012 and have since then continually increased the number of people we support and the impact on people's lives. We are the only organisation in Wirral offering services and support specifically for adults with a learning disability.

We have a committed and experienced Board of Trustees. One board member has experienced having been a family carer for someone with a learning disability. The Board meets every 6 weeks.

There is a staff team of thirteen – six employed on a full time basis, the others working different part time hours. It is an enthusiastic and skilled team with over 36 years' experience working for Wirral Mencap between them.

## What do we do?

We provide a range of services and projects that tackle the inequalities faced by people with a learning disability and our aim is to make Wirral a more accessible, inclusive and supportive community.

Those services include:

- Free independent, specialist information, advice and advocacy support.
- 3-year structured Gateway Award – helping people get fit, have fun, develop their life skills, and make new friends.
- Flexible Independent Gateway Award – supporting people to work through the programme on their own in the community
- Relationships and Sex education and support for people with a learning disability and for family and professional carers
- Volunteering for All project - supporting people with a learning disability to find a volunteer role in the community
- Accessible learning opportunities – courses such as Skills for Independent Living, Healthy Cookery, money skills and computers.
- Free weekly social clubs and drop-in activities including Monday lunch club, lunch and craft club, health drop-in and evening Crossbow Club

## We change people's lives

Our person centred approach brings about lasting change. We support people for as long as it takes and people can access a number of services. As George's story below shows, our services have a long-term cumulative impact on people's lives.



George was in his mid-50s when we first met him. He was still living with his mum and had just been made redundant from his job as a kitchen porter. He had been given a chance by an inclusive employer but when this ended his whole world started to fall apart. He couldn't find another job and he became isolated, seeing no one other than his mum and occasionally his sister who lived 4 hours away.

He was unable to cope at the Job Centre and would return home in tears after appointments until he stopped attending altogether and his benefits were sanctioned. He became withdrawn and depressed. His mum approached us for support as she felt there was "no future for myself or my son". Our support - over a number of years - brought George and his mum:

- Greater financial security through receipt of correct benefits and disabled travel pass.
- New skills, increased confidence, self-esteem and greater independence through completion of the Gateway Award over a 3-year period.
- A new circle of friends and a reduction in social isolation through regular attendance at our weekly social club.

As he began to feel more independent George decided to move out of his mum's home into semi-supported accommodation, avoiding any future crises related to mum's age or health.

'Your support has given us confidence in the future. I feel like a weight has lifted from my shoulders; It's like we have won the lottery.'  
George's Mum

## What are our plans?

Our strategic objectives for the next 5 years to 2025 are:

To champion equality and promote independence so that people with a learning disability reach their full potential

To connect people to their community and others to reduce social isolation and develop personal relationships

To provide knowledge and build confidence to improve personal well-being, resilience and future planning

To collaborate, inform and share best practice to raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve services

It's ambitious. We are not just working with individuals and their families but also seeking to make a difference in the local community.

Bring your skills, experience and enthusiasm and join our board of Trustees to be part of that journey.

## Role Description – Trustee (Voluntary Post)

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Wirral Mencap is a local charity that supports people with a learning disability and their families. The organisation is independent of the national charity both financially and in its management; it is governed by local people for the benefit of local people.

The charity provides a range of services including information & advice, social clubs, personal development programmes, befriending and supported volunteering.

These services are thriving - we currently support over 300 beneficiaries every year. We are able to achieve this through the support of our local community and a number of grant-giving organisations.

### Scope of the role:

In a nutshell, the Trustees support with strategic planning and decision making. They ensure that decisions are in the best interests of the beneficiaries and that there is good financial management and oversight. The Wirral Mencap Trustees meet with the Chief Executive every 6 weeks to discuss progress, challenges and to make key decisions.

The Charity Commission outlines 6 key duties of a Charity Trustee:

1. Ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
2. Comply with the charity's governing document and the law
3. Act in the charity's best interests
4. Manage the charity's resources responsibly
5. Act with reasonable care and skill
6. Ensure the charity is accountable

Go to the Charity Commission publication - The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do – to find out [more](#).

We are seeking new Trustees to complement the skills and experience of our existing board members. Our existing Trustees have a wealth of relevant professional and personal experience but we recognise that there are a few areas where our knowledge and skills could be enhanced. We are therefore interested in hearing from the following people:

- Business and finance professionals
- Marketing and social media professionals
- Parents and carers (particularly of children and young people with a learning disability)

We are also interested in talking to people who feel they have other skills that would benefit a small but growing organisation that is looking to develop new and innovative approaches to serving the local community.

This post will be subject to financial checks and an enhanced DBS Certificate. Expenses will be made available to cover reasonable travel/other costs.

If you want to find out more, please contact Sharon Nicholson at Wirral Mencap on 0151 666 1829 or email [snicholson@mencapwirral.org.uk](mailto:snicholson@mencapwirral.org.uk)

# Trustee Application Form

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## Personal and Contact Information

Full Name:

Address:

Phone:

Post Code:

Date of Birth:

E-Mail:

Please tell us why you are interested in Trusteeship at Wirral Mencap:

Please outline the skills and experience you could bring to the board:

Please tell us what you hope to get out of your involvement with Wirral Mencap:

**Are you related to an employee/ current Trustee of Wirral Mencap?  
Yes / No**

**If yes, please give their name .....**

**Wirral Mencap will take up two references in relation to your application to be a Trustee. Please give details of two people who can act as a referee (non-family members):**

**Reference 1**

Full Name:

Address:

Phone:

Post Code:

E Mail:

**Reference 2**

Full Name:

Address:

Phone:

Post Code:

E Mail:

If your application is successful Wirral Mencap will ask you to complete a form confirming your eligibility to be a trustee (under the Charities Act 1993 some people are disqualified by law from acting as a trustee). Wirral Mencap works with children and vulnerable adults so you will also be expected to undertake an enhanced DBS check (having previous convictions does not necessarily exclude you from becoming a trustee, this depends on the offence and type of conviction.)

**I confirm that the details provided are accurate and up to date. I understand and consent to Wirral Mencap holding personal and sensitive information about me on electronic and manual files.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

Thank you for completing this form. Please phone 07597 986 437 if you have any questions or need more information.

Please return to:-

Wirral Mencap, 42-44 Market Street, Birkenhead, CH41 5BT or [snicholson@mencapwirral.org.uk](mailto:snicholson@mencapwirral.org.uk)