

**we are
all
join
our board!**

A Critical Moment for Change

Scotland faces a deepening housing emergency. Homelessness is rising, demand for support is intensifying and the pressures on people and services have never been greater.

At least 8% of the Scottish population has experienced homelessness in their lifetime, which makes it a pervasive threat. Yet risks are very uneven: poverty remains the main driver of homelessness, with childhood poverty the key predictor of homelessness in later life. Certain groups - such as low-income families, racialised and marginalised communities - bear the brunt, perpetuating cycles of inequality.

In this challenging context, the unique role of Homeless Network Scotland has never been more vital. We connect, learn and act to prevent homelessness and ensure everyone has a safe, settled home. As Scotland's national membership network, we bring people and organisations together to share insight, influence decisions, challenge inequality and drive evidence-based change.

The Opportunity

We are seeking a new **Chair** to lead our committed Board of Trustees. This is a pivotal leadership role for someone passionate about resolving housing insecurity who wants to make a lasting impact at a national level.

“Being a Board member is an incredibly rewarding role. As a trustee you will undoubtedly learn as much as you contribute.”

- Current Board Member

You will join a supportive, experienced Board and work closely with our Chief Executive, Maggie Brünjes.

About the Board

Board members are non-executive directors of the company and charity trustees. Together, you will:

- Advance Homeless Network Scotland's mission, influence and strategic objectives.
- Review and oversee strategy, performance and impact.
- Ensure strong governance, legal compliance and financial health.

Role of Chair

The Chair provides leadership to the Board, works in close partnership with the Chief Executive and ensures the organisation remains accountable to its members and mission. Key responsibilities:

- 1. Leadership & Strategy:** Guide the Board in setting strategic direction, aligned with our purpose, values and resources. Champion long-term vision and monitor progress.
- 2. Meeting Management:** Work with the Chief Executive to set agendas and chair productive, inclusive Board meetings that lead to clear decisions.
- 3. Governance and Compliance:** Promote excellent governance, risk management and financial oversight. Ensure the Board meets all legal duties as company directors and charity trustees.
- 4. CEO & Staff Support:** Provide support and conduct the performance review for the Chief Executive. Facilitate effective communication between the Board and staff.
- 5. Board Development:** Support trustee recruitment, induction and development. Conduct skills audits, nurture a positive culture and encourage full participation.

6. **External Representation:** Act as an ambassador for the organisation, representing Homeless Network Scotland at key events, with stakeholders, and in the media.

Qualities & Skills We're Looking For

- **Leadership Experience:** Influential and impactful leadership in the public, private or voluntary sectors.
- **Governance Experience:** we value prior experience as a charity Chair, Trustee or Non-Executive Director in Scotland.
- **Strategic Thinker:** Strong facilitation, communication and decision-making skills.
- **Commitment:** Deep alignment with our mission to prevent and resolve homelessness. Experience in housing, health or social care is welcome, but **not essential**.
- **Personal Attributes:** Collaborative, relationship-builder, resilient and dedicated to good governance.

Practical Details

- **Voluntary**, unpaid role with reasonable expenses reimbursed.
- **Term:** three years, with option to stand for re-election.
- **Time Commitment:** Estimated time commitment is **approximately 4-6 hours per month** on average. This includes:
 - Quarterly Board Meetings (Thursdays, 4.00-6.00pm, usually online).
 - One full-day in-person strategic planning session per year.
 - One full-day in-person AGM and Annual Conference (October in Perth).
 - Regular 1:1 meeting with the Chief Executive (typically 6-8 times a year).
 - Reading papers and meeting preparation.
 - Occasional ad-hoc meetings, events or representation.

What's in it for you?

- **Real impact:** use your skills to help shape solutions to one of Scotland's most pressing crises and support a network of organisations and people with lived experience of homelessness.
- **Leadership development:** deepen your governance, strategic and chairing experience in a respected national charity.
- **Networking and learning:** connect with experts across housing, policy and the third sector.

How to Apply:

Please send a short statement outlining why you are interested in the role and what you would bring, along with your CV or a brief professional biography to: hello@homelessnetwork.scot

Closing date: Friday 24 July 2026.

For an informal discussion, contact:

- Maggie Brünjes, Chief Executive > mbrunjes@homelessnetwork.scot
- Peter Kelly, Interim Chair > peter.kelly@povertyalliance.org

Homeless Network Scotland

Charity Registered in Scotland (SC0 03453) and Company Limited by Guarantee (SC112361)
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