

AGM 2022: ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Proposal for the coming 12 months:

We currently have four vacancies for elected Directors and have received two nominations to fill these places. The nominees are Bushra Riaz of Kidney Research UK and Emma Nieminen of Diabetes Scotland. As the number of vacancies exceeds the number of nominations, there is no need for a formal election, so the proposal to the AGM is that the two nominations be accepted.

This means that the Board of Directors for the coming year is proposed as follows:

1. Ian Bruce, Glasgow Council for Voluntary Organisations (GCVS)
2. Christine Carlin, Home-Start Scotland
3. David Main – co-optee (VHS Treasurer)
4. Paul Mooney – co-optee
5. Rob Murray, Cancer Support Scotland (VHS Chair)
6. Emma Nieminen, Diabetes Scotland
7. Maureen O'Neill, Faith in Older People (VHS Vice Chair)
8. Wilma Paterson, Cumbernauld Action for Care of the Elderly (CACE)
9. Bushra Riaz, Kidney Research UK
10. Nicola Sinclair, NHS Lothian Charity

Summary of nominees' statements:

Bushra Riaz

Since joining VHS as a member in December 2021, Bushra has admired its passion and appreciated being part of its numerous events. Bushra is Policy Lead at Kidney Research UK and an experienced and successful professional who previously worked within the marketing, sales and PR industry. She currently works for Kidney Research UK as the Policy Lead (Scotland) and her expertise lies in engaging with ethnic minority communities to address health inequalities. She works with the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu faith communities in Glasgow and Edinburgh to raise awareness of kidney health, kidney disease and the importance of organ donation. She manages a team of 12 volunteers, and is passionate about making a difference to underrepresented communities. Her work experience with Kidney Research UK has helped her maintain and grow a large professional network of people and build a good community of friends, colleagues, and supporters. She says, "Joining the VHS Board would provide me with an opportunity to share my knowledge and experience with the organisation and make a difference to the charity's operation", and adds, "I believe my relationship-building and networking skills will help the Board meet its objectives whilst working with different members".

Emma Nieminen

Has recently joined Diabetes Scotland as Health System Engagement Lead, working to influence, support, and work collaboratively with senior level decision makers in the health system to improve outcomes for people living with and at risk of diabetes. Prior to this she worked at the Nightline Association initially as Suicide Calls Project

Coordinator, then transitioned to a Senior Operations role, with a focus on foundational charity governance, policies and procedures, and demonstrating charity impact. She worked closely with the Nightline Association Trustees and witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact that their ongoing support and direction had on the charity. Through this she learned key skills in charity governance and strategic leadership, which she would now like to apply as a member of the VHS Board. She says, "I am eager to learn how my skills match up and work alongside existing experience on the Board, and how we can all work together to support the work of VHS. I believe I would contribute expertise in navigating uncertainty and change in the charity sector, as well as fresh ideas as a young Trustee still in the early part of my career."

Further opportunities to join the Board:

Following the AGM the Board will comprise 10 Directors. That means there are still four vacancies in total: two for appointed Directors, and two for co-opted Directors. Should any VHS member or other interested stakeholder be interested in potential Board membership, we encourage you to have an informal conversation with either Rob Murray, Chair or Claire Stevens, Chief Executive.

Overview of our rules:

VHS is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. We are governed by our Articles which state we must have a minimum of three Directors and a maximum of fourteen Directors. Our Directors are also the Trustees of the charity and serve as our Board. Up to ten Directors may be elected by the membership or appointed directly by the Board of Directors. Elected/appointed Directors must be Full Members of VHS. Additionally, the Board of Directors may co-opt up to four additional Directors from other sectors/backgrounds.

Thanks to retiring Board members:

The Board wish to record their heartfelt thanks to Gemma Crompton who retired from the Board earlier this year, and to Lucy Mulvagh and Jonathan Ssentamu who are retiring at this AGM.