Chairman: Raj Mahapatra
Treasurer: Nicholas Reid
Chief Executive: Dr Dale Webb

NASS Board of Trustees: Role Description for Trustee

About NASS

Axial SpA is an inflammatory disease of the spine and joints. Inflammation where muscles attach to the bones, causes extreme pain. If left untreated, it can permanently fuse bones together.

We are the National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (NASS) and we seek to transform the diagnosis and care of people living with axial SpA.

It's an invisible and misdiagnosed condition. Often leaving people feeling powerless, in increasing pain and extreme exhaustion.

So we campaign policy makers for early diagnosis and better services. We work with the NHS to get axial SpA identified and diagnosed quickly.

We're determined that everyone receives effective care. We make sure people with axial SpA
get the latest information and the support they need to tackle living with the condition.

And we build an active community, online and through our local branches across the UK. We are with them all the way.

Join us. Help us raise our voices and raise funds. Axial SpA may work silently. But we don't.

The duties of a trustee

There is a legal requirement that a charity trustee must:

- ***Ensure that the charity is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit***, as set out in the Constitution: understand the charity's purpose; plan what the charity will so and what you want it to achieve; be able to explain how all the charity's activities are intended to further its purposes; understand how the charity benefits the public by carrying out its purpose.
- ***Ensure that the charity complies with its Constitution, charity law, company law*** and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- ***Act in the interests of the charity***: make balanced and adequately informed decisions, thinking about the long term as well as the short term;

avoid putting yourself in a position where your duty to the charity conflicts with your personal interest or loyalty to any other person or body; not receive any benefit from the charity unless it is properly authorised and clearly in the charity's interests.

- ***Manage the charity's resources responsibly***: make sure that its assets are only used to carry out its charitable purpose; avoid exposing the charity's assets, beneficiaries or reputation to undue risk; not over-committing the charity; and taking special care when investing or borrowing.
- ***Act with reasonable care and skill***: make use of their skills and experience; take appropriate advice when necessary; and give enough time, thought and energy to the role.
- ***Ensure that the charity is accountable***: comply with statutory accounting and reporting requirements; ensure appropriate accountability to members; ensure appropriate to committees and staff where Board authority are delegated.

In addition, trustees should contribute actively to the Board in its role to provide clear strategic direction, working with the Chief Executive in setting the strategy, business plan and budget, and evaluating performance against agreed targets. Trustees are responsible for the appointment of the Chief Executive and, through the Chair, for the monitoring of her/his performance.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board reach sound decisions. This may involve leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, evaluation or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

The NASS Board of trustees

The NASS Board is a body of 12 trustees which, as defined by The Charities Act 2011, is responsible under the charity's governing document for controlling the administration and management of the charity. Trustees elect from among themselves a Chair and Treasurer.

The Board meets four times a year – at least one of these is a face to face meetings held on a Saturday daytime (in London and /or during the annual Members Day) and two are videoconference meetings held on a weekday early evening. Meetings last two hours each. Board meeting papers are sent out one week in advance.

Minimum time commitment

Trustees are expected to attend all four Board meetings each year. In addition, trustees are encouraged to attend some of the events organised by NASS such as parliamentary events and educational events.

Induction
An induction session will be held with newly elected trustees.

Person specification
Each trustee must have:

• a commitment to the mission of NASS
• a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
• integrity
• strategic vision
• good, independent judgement
• an ability to think creatively
• a willingness to speak their mind
• an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
• an ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of NASS.

In addition, from time to time we recruit to trustee roles that are restricted to practising healthcare professionals.

Please return form by Friday 25 July 2025 to:
Dr Dale Webb, Chief Executive, NASS

By post (address below) or by email to dalewebb@nass.co.uk