



The Sir George Martin Trust is recruiting for a new investment trustee to join the board

About

The [Sir George Martin Trust](#) is an independent grantmaker which aims to improve the well-being of economically and socially disadvantaged people in West Yorkshire by giving grants to predominantly small, local, registered charities and churches who deliver community outreach work.

The Trust was formed in 1956 from endowments from the late Sir George Martin – a prominent Leeds businessman and civic figure who became the Lord Mayor of Leeds and Sheriff of Yorkshire, and in appreciation of his outstanding public service was awarded the position of Honorary Freeman in 1966 which granted him ‘freedom of the city of Leeds’.

Sir George left the residue of his estate to the Trust which enabled the Trustees to invest in a wide range of investments. The Trust works to maintain existing levels of donations, at the same time as ensuring that the Trust’s funds remain soundly invested with an eye to making capital appreciation where possible.

In the last ten years, the Sir George Martin Trust has supported more than 800 charitable organisations with grants totalling over £2.4m and in 2023/24 the Trust made 128 donations totalling £339,267, with the average sized grant being £2,651. The Trust currently gives out flexible grants predominantly in the £1,000 - £5,000 region and is aiming to give out more multi-year grants in the future to support local charities’ long-term sustainability.

Aims & Values

Our Trust supports a wide range of local communities and issues, and places an emphasis on being approachable, supportive and flexible so that the grant application process is as positive as possible for grant seekers. The trustees aim to continue the legacy of Sir George in an inclusive and generous spirit and encourage our Trust Manager, Carla Marshall, to visit and talk to as many applicants as possible and share her knowledge with them when appropriate.

Board Structure

The Trust is currently governed by a board of seven trustees. Two are connected to Sir George’s family and have business, marketing and education skills and knowledge. There are a further five external professional trustees who have local frontline charity leadership, legal, investment and finance expertise. The current Chair is Morven Whyte and the Vice-Chair is Sarah Blenkinsop.

Trustee Terms

All trustees are appointed on a voluntary basis and will be elected for an initial four-year term to include the first probationary year. Subject to mutual agreement, their membership will be extended for a further four-year period. Subsequently retirement will follow unless taking up the role of Vice- Chair or Chair. Expenses for travel to meetings will be covered.

Trustee person specification

The Sir George Martin Trust seeks to appoint a new trustee who has strong investment skills and knowledge and who will:

- Be committed to the Trust and has sufficient time and willingness to contribute effectively to board proceedings.
- Provide guidance and advice in relation to all investment related matters.
- Have an open-minded attitude with the ability to listen and is able to work effectively as a member of a team in person, on video meetings and via email.
- Have a reasonable level of understanding of legal, financial, audit and other regulatory requirements of a charity.
- Can manage risks with a balanced and informed approach.
- Is able to make quick and sound decisions based on an analysis of information presented to them.
- Is interested in and has a good understanding of the challenges facing West Yorkshire charities.
- Is interested in and has a good understanding of the issues facing disadvantaged and vulnerable people living in West Yorkshire.
- Have a good track record of reliability and an ability to travel to meetings.
- Be supportive of our Trust Manager who is our one employee.

Time Commitment

Board meetings are usually held three times a year (4.00 – 7.00pm on a weekday at a West Yorkshire charity which the Trust has recently supported) when grant applications are reviewed, plus the AGM and Fellowship Lunch in early December. Each trustee is also a member of the FIC (Finance & Investment Committee) or OC (Operations Committee) which meets on Teams twice a year. There will also be a Strategy Day held every three years, with key issues and a review of the strategy discussed every year at the AGM.

The trustees are also encouraged to make a couple of visits a year with the Trust Manager to local charities in order to keep them more closely connected with current issues the third sector is facing. Each trustee will also ideally attend a couple of Yorkshire Funders' networking and training sessions with the Trust Manager in order to ensure ongoing learning and development across the trustee board.

Outside of board meetings, the Trust Manager and Chair may seek to consult with trustees on particular subjects.

Next steps

If you are interested in this voluntary role, please email our Trust Manager, Carla Marshall at info@sirgeorgemartintrust.org.uk by Friday 31st October 2025 and tell us why you are interested in the trustee role and what you can bring to the table. Carla will then organise a Teams meeting in early November with her and two of our trustees and then the final, shortlisted candidates will be invited to meet the group in person later in November. Our AGM and Christmas lunch takes place in Harrogate on Friday 5th December and we would ideally like our new investment trustee to attend this meeting and social event.