

FCT TRUSTEE INFORMATION



**Reducing social isolation,
exclusion and loneliness**



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Welcome

“Thank you for your interest in the role of Trustee at Fermanagh Community Transport”

Fermanagh Community Transport is a charity which is passionate about helping people gain independence from rural social isolation, exclusion, and loneliness in Fermanagh. We exist to address the real and growing need within County Fermanagh for individuals to be able to access essential and much needed services and supports, which many of us take for granted in our day to day lives.

For many people within our rural communities, being able to physically get to a GP appointment, a hospital outpatient appointment, to the shops, meet-up with family and friends, to attend social and recreation groups, to attend college, day centre/ day opportunities and a myriad of other needs, is challenging and in many instances impossible, were it not for the support and service offered by Fermanagh Community Transport.

Our members are unable to access and benefit from traditional Ulsterbus services, private taxi services and the use of a private vehicle to get them from their homes to the necessary support services on the day and time they need to go there and return home. For many of our members, there is no reliable and accessible rural public transport service running past their home. Even if there was, many would be unable to walk to the bus stop, let alone board the vehicle. In terms of taxis, the cost is prohibitive and beyond the means of many of our members, and again, many of the vehicles are simply not accessible. Car ownership for many is not possible due to financial circumstances, poor personal mobility and other health and well-being related needs and issues.

Our rural dial a lift service addresses the needs of these individuals and communities head-on. Our demand responsive service, picks the individual up at their home in one of our fully accessible minibuses and brings them to their destination.





Once they are ready to return home, we pick them up and return them to their door. Our service is a 'life-line' for our members. We are driven by our core values of professionalism, reliability and compassion.

As we continue to live through and adapt to COVID, we are facing an increasing and unprecedented demand on our service, especially in relation to travel to GP and outpatient appointments, at a time when we are running our services with social distancing and other mitigations in place, which means we are carrying fewer people right now.

“The growing need and demand are only set to rise, as we continue to see the closure and centralisation of essential rural services, the rapidly aging profile of our population and ongoing cutbacks in rural public transport services”

We are reaching out to people like you, who can bring real talent, expertise and value to our Board so that we can continue to provide, improve, grow and innovate our much-needed service. We are looking for individuals with a background in one or more of the following areas i.e legal, financial management, governance, human resource management and lived experience. Whilst previous board experience would be beneficial, we are also keen to hear from individuals who do not have board experience but would relish the opportunity to gain that experience with Fermanagh Community Transport.

If you feel you have the experience, talent, and passion, we need to take Fermanagh Community Transport forward, then we really look forward to hearing from you.

Cathy Magowan
FCT Chairperson



Join our Board and Be Part of Something Special!

Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of Directors of Fermanagh Community Transport. This pack is intended to provide all the information you need to decide whether you wish to apply.

If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact Jason on 07702609432 if you would like to have a confidential conversation about the role. Alternatively, you can email Jason at jason@fermanaghcommunitytransport.com. Jason can respond directly to your email or call you back if you prefer.





About Us

Our Purpose

“We are passionate about helping people gain independence from social isolation, exclusion and loneliness in Fermanagh. We help them to get back to living their lives.”

Fermanagh Community Transport (FCT) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status which was established in 2013 following the merger of two former organisations that covered the Fermanagh area and part of south Tyrone at that time. Since 2013, FCT has provided in the region of 250,000 essential Dial a Lift door to door trips for individuals from right across our rural community who cannot access public transport or private transport to get to the many services, facilities, and activities which many take for granted.

Our aim is to provide accessible, affordable, and efficient community transport to people who would otherwise be socially or rurally isolated.

We are a member only organisation and we presently have 1,200 members. Our individual membership is free and available to anyone living in a rural area within Fermanagh who does not have access to a car or public transport for the purposes of accessing essential services and support such as GP appointments, hospital outpatient appointments, other health and wellbeing related appointments, shopping, visiting family and friends, attending social and recreational groups, and gaining access to education, learning and employment. 29,500 individual member trips were delivered to members in 2019-2020. We have 16 staff and 14 volunteer social car drivers.

We are governed by a voluntary Board of Directors who have a wealth of experience in the community, public and private sector and a passion for working towards greater levels of inclusion and a more equitable society for all communities and individuals across rural Fermanagh and within the town of Enniskillen. [Click here](#) to view our most recent Audited Annual Accounts and Annual Report.



What We Do

Our core service is the Rural Dial-A-Lift service. [Click here for more details.](#) We receive core funding from the Department for Infrastructure. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs supports the rural dial-a-lift scheme through its Assisted Rural Travel Service (ARTS) funding which allows our rural members to use a valid SMARTPASS on our Dial a Lift Service.

FCT also offers Group Vehicle Hire for Charitable / Community / Voluntary / Sports / Youth and Church groups. These groups can hire one of our vehicles with their own driver or our driver at very competitive rates. [Click here for more details.](#)

We provide driver training to enable charitable, voluntary and community group volunteer drivers to gain suitable standards required to drive a minibus in a roadworthy and safe fashion. [Click here for more details on Driver Training.](#)

We host and facilitate the delivery of the Disability Action Transport Scheme in Enniskillen town in collaboration with Disability Action Northern Ireland. Through this scheme we deliver approximately 1,200 trips per annum.



Why Our Work Is Important

Rural social isolation, exclusion and loneliness

Individuals and communities from all walks of life from right across Fermanagh, cannot access public transport and or a private vehicle to get access to the basic essential services which they need to lead and live normal and fulfilling lives. For our members, the opportunity to access essential services such as GP appointments, hospital outpatient appointments, to visit shops, or to visit family, friends and relatives is difficult, and challenging and in many instances an outright impossible task.

We know from everyday experience and getting to know our members, that one of the biggest outcomes of social isolation and exclusion, as well as not being able to access essential services, is loneliness. There are many people in Fermanagh who report being lonely. Lack of personal mobility, accessibility and affordability can all lead to this phenomenon. This is worsened by the continuing erosion and breakdown of the traditional rural familial network (which was once the rural way of life), the ongoing closure and centralisation of our local rural services, and the increasing aging nature of our population.

COVID-19 has brought the issue of transport poverty within Fermanagh into even sharper focus, and it has concentrated the minds of many agencies and organisations, piquing their awareness and understanding of the nature and extent of transport poverty in rural Fermanagh, the role and importance of rural community transport, and the need for greater proactive and collaborative joint working to address it – it is real, and it is growing.

“There are many people in Fermanagh who report being lonely”



Transport Poverty

The Key Elements

Can I physically walk to the bus stop, if one exists near to me?

Is there an Ulsterbus service which will bring me into Enniskillen and back home again in time for my outpatient appointment? Is the Ulsterbus service accessible for me? Can I get on in my wheelchair? How can I get on using my walking aid? Is there an accessible taxi service that I could use?

Can I afford the cost of a taxi service if I am unable to walk to a bus stop or to board the Ulsterbus service?

- Lower life opportunities in terms of education, learning, friendship, employment, connection, community, physical, psychological and emotional well-being
- Greater levels of social isolation, exclusion, loneliness and marginalisation
- Lower access to early medical and health detection and testing services
- Higher incidence of Can Not Attend and Do Not Attend
- Higher levels of illness and multiple disease prevalence
- More likely to be admitted to A&E under a Blue Light scenario
- More likely to be admitted to hospital and thereafter to a residential or care setting
- Loss of independence and autonomy
- Higher cost to health and social care compared to a situation where the individual is able to remain in their own home with access to the supports and services they need

Member Case-study (Anonymised)

Sarah is in her 60's and has been wheelchair bound for many years. Her physical mobility is severely limited, but she lives a tremendously independent and fulfilling life. She is reliant on an electric wheelchair and relies on the rural dial a lift service to travel to Enniskillen on a regular basis to do her shopping and to attend regular hospital out-patient appointments. Sarah cannot use the local Ulsterbus service because the bus is not accessible, and she lives a distance from the bus-stop. A taxi from her home into Enniskillen would cost in the region of £20-£25 one way, meaning Sarah would have to pay £40 for a round trip to the shops or to the hospital. Both forms of transport are out of the question for Sarah. Sarah has told us on many occasions that the Fermanagh Community Transport service is a 'life-line' service for her. Without it being available, she would not be able to remain in her own home near her family and the community she grew up within. She values her independence and her ability to get out and about with the help of FCT. Without us, she has said that she wouldn't get out through the door.

What We Are Looking For

We're hoping to enhance the current Board's collective portfolio of skills, knowledge, and experience, particularly in the following areas. If you have skills and experience in one or more of the following areas, we'd love to hear from you.

Financial / Accounting

Legal

Social Enterprise

Lived Experience



This is not an exhaustive list and if there are other skills, qualities and experience that you feel you might be able to bring to the Board and which would potentially add value to the work of Fermanagh Community Transport and the members we serve, we would invite you to highlight these. Please note, whilst previous experience of serving on a Governing Board (charitable, public, or private sector) would be beneficial, the Board of Fermanagh Community Transport is keen to hear from those individuals who have relevant skills, knowledge and experience, and who would like to build their governance and leadership skills. Being a member of the Board of Fermanagh Community Transport will give you a unique opportunity to build capacity and experience whilst making a real difference to the lives of many people right across Fermanagh.

Please submit a copy of your CV, along with a completed Charity Trustee/ Voluntary Board Member Declaration which is available in Appendix 1.

Fermanagh Community Transport is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



Role and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee

For more information on the role of a Trustee and wider charity governance, please review the Charity Commission NI Guidance at <https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/charity-essentials/running-your-charity-guidance> which is guidance within which Fermanagh Community Transport operates.

Terms of Appointment

Time Commitment

Up to 8 board meetings per year, with a need for flexibility to attend evening meetings and events if needed. Meetings last approximately 2 hours. Due to COVID-19, over the past two years, meetings have been held remotely.

Terms of Appointment

Initial three-year term, renewable by agreement to a maximum renewal of three terms.

Expenses

There is no remuneration for this role but reasonable out of pocket expenses are available in line with Fermanagh Community Transport's financial policy and procedures.

Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

Fermanagh Community Transport is committed to increasing the diversity of our Board. We welcome interest from all sections of our community.



How to Apply

The Steps

Step 1

- Please submit an up-to-date CV listing your relevant skills, experience, and knowledge by email to jason@fermanaghcommunitytransport.com by 5.00pm on Monday 20th May 2022.

Step 2

- A shortlist of potential candidates will be determined the week commencing the 23rd May 2022.

Step 3

- Candidates will be invited for an informal interview with our Nominations Committee in the week commencing the 30th May 2022. The informal interview will provide an opportunity for the Chair and other Trustees on the Nomination Committee to discuss with you how you meet the criteria set out in this Trustee Application Pack, and to answer any questions you might have.

Step 4

- Candidates will be informed during the week commencing 6th June 2022 whether they have been successful in their application to join the Board of Fermanagh Community Transport. Candidates who are successful will be co-opted onto the Board until the next AGM, wherein they will be officially nominated and elected on to the Board as a full non-executive director.

Step 5

- Appointment to the Board will be subject to a satisfactory Access NI Check and the completion of the attached Charity Trustee/ Voluntary Board Member Declaration which is contained within this pack at Appendix 1.

Step 6

- Do let us know if you have any access requirements to participate in any stage of this process.

Appendix 1: Charity Trustee / Voluntary Board Member Declaration

Fermanagh Community Transport is a registered Charity. We ask all applicants to confirm their Trustee eligibility and responsibility.

By signing this form, you declare that you:

- Are willing to act as a Charity Trustee.
- Understand the organisation's purposes (objects) and rules set out in its governing document.
- Are not prevented from acting as a charity trustee because you:
- Have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception.
- Are currently declared bankrupt (or subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order).
- Have an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) to pay off debts with creditors.
- Have made a composition or arrangement with or granted a trust deed for creditors and this has not been discharged.
- Are subject to a moratorium period under a debt relief order or a debt relief restrictions order.
- Are disqualified from being a company director.
- Have previously been removed as a trustee by the Commission or the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement or removed as a charity trustee by any other charity regulator or Court in the UK.
- Are disqualified or barred from acting as a trustee of this charity under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012).

You also declare that:

- The information you provide is true, complete and correct.
- You will comply with your responsibilities as a trustee set out in the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance.

Name

Signature

(If invited for interview you will be asked to counter sign in person.):

Date



FERMANAGH
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Fermanagh Community Transport
Unit 42, Enniskillen Business Centre
Lackaboy Industrial Estate
Tempo Road, Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
N. Ireland, BT74 4RL

T: 028 6632 4260

E: info@fermanaghcommunitytransport.com

fermanaghcommunitytransport.com

Design www.colinthedesigner.com

