

SUCCESS STORY

Featured Organisation: BucksVision

BucksVision is the local visual impairment charity working within Buckinghamshire. It supports people at all stages of sight loss, for example with its Hospital Volunteers who offer practical advice and a friendly chat at eye clinics across the county. All of BucksVision's staff and volunteers understand the practical consequences and emotional impact of serious sight loss, and are focused on supporting those affected with training and encouragement to enable them to carry on with most, if not all, aspects of their lives.



What was the challenge?

We were very keen to strengthen and diversify our Board, ideally trying to retain our visually impaired majority if possible. We particularly wanted to recruit younger Trustees, and to have at least one female member. It was also important for our Board to represent the BAME community, as many people within this demographic have sight conditions specific to their ethnic group. Despite our concerted efforts, however, we had been unsuccessful, and were looking for information and support from Community Impact Bucks.



Support from Community Impact Bucks

Community Impact Bucks' *Volunteering Advice Surgery* provided us with a variety of new avenues that we could explore to enhance our Trustee recruitment – these included specialist recruitment sites (for example Reach's TrusteeWorks), help reviewing our Trustee role descriptions, and a handy "Top Tips for Trustee Recruitment" document. Most importantly, we were already booked to attend their Trustee Forum in January, but were encouraged to also attend the evening Trustee Dating session – which could be an excellent source of potential Trustees.



What difference did this make?

We're so pleased that we attended the session, it reinvigorated our search - later in January we interviewed two potential Trustees that we met at the event – both candidates were female, one Asian (retired), and one white British (an engineer in her early twenties). They seem interested, and we have invited them to our next Board meeting. If we do recruit them in the forthcoming months, and we are optimistic that we will, we will be absolutely delighted – it will make a real difference to us and the balance of our Board; this will ensure that the charity's services are effectively governed. In addition, there is a third candidate who we met at the event who may contact us in future.

Summary from Charity:

We are extremely grateful to Community Impact Bucks for all of their help, and consider the Trustee Dating event one of the most productive that we have attended.

Steve Naylor, Chief Executive, BucksVision



Quote from CIB:

“We are delighted that BucksVision has made such successful inroads in diversifying its Board, and look forward to following progress over the next few months.”

Hazel Finney, Volunteering Adviser

Need support? Speak to our team

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