

the stove network

YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Are you interested in supporting the mission of The Stove by adding your voice to the work of the Stove Board? Do you want to contribute to the future of the organisation and support the communities we aim to reach?

A couple of spaces on our board have opened up as long-term directors have stepped down – we'd be particularly interested in hearing from creative practitioners, younger people and those interested in community activism to fill these spaces as these are currently under-represented on the board. (Practitioners please note that being a board member will not exclude you for applying for or undertaking paid work with The Stove)

We're inviting notes of interest from members of or network, who feel they can contribute to the future direction of the organisation, be part of the directive decision making and support the core mission of The Stove.

The Stove Network is at an exciting stage in its mission to help make Dumfries and our region a place where communities thrive through creativity, collaboration, enterprise and risk-taking. A place where everyone is supported to be involved creatively and take part in the celebration and making of our culture.

Through place-based work and embedded arts practice, we are committed to supporting creative conversation, enterprise, and inclusion. We strive to bring together diverse communities and to promote and develop well-being and sustainable local futures.

In order to achieve these goals, we work with a diverse and dedicated team of core staff, a host of talented external colleagues and a skilled and passionate board of directors.

The Stove Board meets 4 times a year plus an Annual General Meeting and a handful of subgroup meetings. It is entirely up to you how much you decide to get involved beyond this basic commitment, there is no obligation in that regard. Our board is a relaxed and happy group of people who care about the values of The Stove and get a lot of personal satisfaction from playing a part in making great things happen.

If you are interested in joining our Board of Directors, please contact the Chair of our Board Tony Fitzpatrick with a note of interest saying why you like to be a board member via info@thestove.org Your interest will be followed up by the offer of an informal chat to discuss further what the role entails and what you could bring to the group.

The Stove Network Board of Directors

Though the following feels quite formal, the fundamental experience we want you to have is fun. This role, like The Stove Network is stimulating, interesting, challenging, and inspiring.

However, there are obligations we need to make you aware of, see below:

Strategic Direction

1. Board members must agree with and commit to the organisation's purpose, vision and mission, and be able to talk about it clearly.
2. Board members have ultimate responsibility for directing the overall work of The Stove Network, ensuring it is financially viable, efficiently run, and delivering the outcomes for which it has been set up.
3. Decisions need to be carefully thought through and you will need to contribute to and get involved in debate while being able to listen to others.
4. Board members must ensure that the organisation complies with its company rules, relevant laws, and the requirements of any regulatory bodies. The company secretary and Stove team can support the board in this.
5. Board members should attend the necessary induction, training and ongoing training and assess the information they get to make good decisions.
6. Board members must regularly review the risks to which The Stove Network is subject, taking action to mitigate risks identified with the support of the Stove Team.
7. Board members should ensure the Board is open and accountable to members and other stakeholders about its own work.

Board Operations

1. Board members should ensure that the Board has the best range of skills, experience and knowledge needed to run The Stove Network effectively. Regular skills audits can help understand what new skills might be needed.
2. Board members should ensure that the Board organises its work to make the most effective use of the time, skills and knowledge of Board members. This should not be a "talking shop", rather we want a useful board that in turn makes you feel useful.
3. Board members agree to assist in making careful decisions and to share responsibility for decisions. Board members agree to respect the final decision of the Board which can be based on a vote where consensus can't be reached.
4. Board members should ensure that office bearers are clear about their specific roles
5. The board should use the resource they have in the staff team to help them make good decisions

Delegation – the roles of staff and board

6. Board members should focus on the strategic direction of The Stove Network. The Board agree to delegate certain operational matters to paid staff. Board

members should thereafter avoid becoming involved in any operational matters once they are clearly delegated.

7. Board members should ensure that staff, volunteers, and contractors have sufficient delegated authority, either written down in a policy (see below) or in minutes. All delegated authorities must have clear limits.
8. **Note:** Beyond legal compliance, the division of responsibility should be an on-going debate to ensure it is a catalyst for releasing the board and staff's ability to be creative and effective rather than to tie the organisation down in rules. These must be open to change when doing so is in the interests of the organisation's core purpose.