

Adolescent Health Study

Appointment of Trustee

Information Pack

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WittKieffer

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WELCOME FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR CATHIE SUDLOW AND BOARD CHAIR, PROFESSOR NICK WAREHAM



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Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of the Adolescent Health Study (AHS) as a Trustee.

The Adolescent Health Study (AHS) is a major new research initiative focused on understanding how young people grow and develop during adolescence — a period of significant physical, emotional and social change.

AHS will be a resource to enable research that aims to understand this vitally important transition phase and how young people's adolescent experiences impact their health and wellbeing in later life. It will make a significant contribution to informing health and education policy for this age group for years to come.

Our aim is bold: to recruit and characterise in depth at least 100,000 young people across the UK and follow their health and wellbeing for a minimum of 10 years. Achieving this will take ambition, strong governance and an ability to partner effectively with a wealth of external stakeholders, some of whom will be key delivery partners. That is why we need a Board of Trustees whose collective skills, knowledge and experience will help to ensure the long-term success of the study – and this appointment is critical to achieving this.

We have recently recruited a new Chief Information Technology Officer to the executive team at AHS. We now need to appoint a new Trustee who can bring cyber-security, data protection and information technology expertise to the Board. This Trustee will make a significant contribution to the Board's ability to provide effective oversight and to support the AHS's long-term sustainability.

This information pack outlines the opportunity to join us at an exciting time in our journey as an independent organisation. If you share our ambition and commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of young people, we look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,



Professor Cathie Sudlow OBE FMedSci
Executive Director, Adolescent Health Study

Professor Nick Wareham FMedSci
Chair of Trustees, Adolescent Health Study



ADOLESCENT HEALTH STUDY

The Adolescent Health Study is focused on understanding how young people develop during adolescence and how this critical period affects their future health and wellbeing. The study will establish a comprehensive data platform to support interdisciplinary research into the biological, psychological, behavioural, and social factors that shape outcomes during adolescence and early adulthood.

The study aims to recruit at least 100,000 volunteers within the age range 8-18 years from across the UK and follow their health and wellbeing for at least 10 years. We plan to collect data through questionnaires and measurements, analysis of biological samples, and additional information from health, education and other records. The study has been awarded over £60 million of funding from UK Research and Innovation, the Government's national funding agency for science and research.

Why this study is needed

Compared with other age groups, such as young children or older adults, people in their adolescent years have received much less attention in health research. To address this gap, the Adolescent Health Study has been established to advance our understanding and improve the health and wellbeing of future generations of young people.

For more information please visit <https://www.adolescenthealthstudy.ac.uk/>.

Governance and transition

The Adolescent Health Study is in a pivotal phase in its organisational development, having transitioned from a programme coordinated by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to an independent, not-for-profit, private limited company with charitable status.

This shift will enable more agile decision-making, diversification of income and increased autonomy, and requires an appropriately diverse and independent Board of Trustees. We currently have nine Trustees on our Board. Information about our Trustees can be found at the following link: [Board of Trustees, Adolescent Health Study](#).





THE ROLE

The Adolescent Health Study seeks to appoint a new Trustee to bring expertise in cyber-security, data protection and information technology to the Board. The role is critical to ensuring that the Board can provide effective oversight, support the organisation's long-term sustainability, and uphold the highest standards of governance and accountability.

The appointee will support the Board in overseeing the Adolescent Health Study's work, provide strategic guidance, scrutiny and oversight to the Board on cyber security, data protection, information governance, technology risk management, and digital, and help to ensure the AHS maintains high standards of compliance, stewardship and public trust. They will:

- Bring independent scrutiny and oversight to the Board on cyber-security, data protection, information governance and digital strategy
- Challenge and support (as appropriate) the design, implementation and operation of digital platforms, systems and services, ensuring their alignment with organisational objectives
- Promote a culture of cyber awareness, privacy by design and responsible stewardship of data across the organisation
- Support the development and continuous improvement of the organisation's information governance, security and technology assurance frameworks and controls
- Provide oversight of compliance with relevant legal, regulatory and contractual obligations, including data protection and information security requirements
- Advise the Board on emerging technology, cyber security and digital risks, opportunities and industry best practice
- Provide assurance that appropriate arrangements are in place for incident response, business continuity, disaster recovery and organisational resilience

In keeping with the AHS' charitable mission, Trustee positions are not remunerated. However, Trustees are supported in their roles by a highly competent and accomplished executive team, which – of relevance to this role – includes an experienced Chief Information Technology Officer.

THE PERSON

Trustees of the Adolescent Health Study play a central role in shaping the strategic direction, governance, and long-term impact of what is one of the UK's most ambitious longitudinal research programmes.

Trustees are expected to have the following general attributes:

- Breadth of vision and a strong grasp of governance, risk, and strategic planning;
- Sound judgement and the ability to digest and act upon detailed written material;
- Effective communication skills, including the ability to challenge constructively and support consensus-building;
- Experience in change management, organisational development, or transformation;
- Unquestioned integrity, and a commitment to the values and mission of the organisation;
- Intellectual curiosity and a willingness to engage with the scientific and societal ambitions of the study – while prior experience in academic or research settings is not a pre-requisite, an understanding of the challenges facing large-scale research programmes will be an advantage.

Applicants for this role will additionally have experience of the following:

- **Digital Strategy:** Demonstrable expertise in developing, scaling and governing digital products, platforms and services within healthcare, life sciences, research or other data-intensive sectors. Experience may include digital applications, data platforms, technology architecture, infrastructure or cloud-based services.
- **Digital Leadership:** Significant executive and/or non-executive experience providing strategic leadership and oversight of digital transformation, technology operations and organisational change. Experience of balancing innovation, growth and operational delivery with appropriate governance and risk management.
- **Cyber Security & Data Protection:** Experience of operating at a senior strategic level with accountability for cyber security, information governance, data protection, risk management and assurance. Experience of establishing governance, risk management and control frameworks, including the assessment and management of technology, cyber security and information risks.
- **Regulatory & Compliance:** A strong understanding of legal, regulatory and best-practice requirements relating to information governance, cyber security and data protection, particularly within health, research, public sector or regulated environments.

Applicants with knowledge of the use of AI in large data resources are particularly encouraged to apply though this is not essential.

The Trustees are collectively responsible for ensuring that the organisation exercises effective stewardship of its resources, maintains long-term financial sustainability, and safeguards its assets in pursuit of its charitable objectives. Hence, Trustees are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct, in line with the Nolan Principles of Public Life, and to act in accordance with the expectations set out in the Charity Governance Code and other relevant frameworks.

ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS

SEARCH AND SELECTION PROCESS

Expressions of interest and enquiries should be made to WittKieffer, the executive search firm assisting with the appointment.

Those interested in the role should submit a CV accompanied by a short cover letter (1-2 pages) outlining their suitability for the position and interest in the Adolescent Health Study.

Applications should be submitted by **5pm 11 September 2026**

Please submit your application to gdrummond@wittkieffer.com

For a confidential discussion about the role and the expectations, please contact:

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