

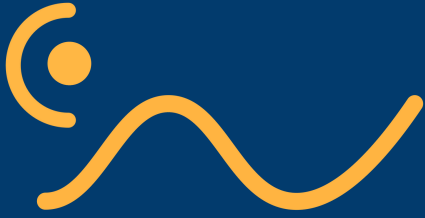


Edmund Sawyer Almshouses Trustees

Candidate pack
July 2025



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About us



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About us



The Almshouse Association - who we are and what we do

Almshouses are steeped in history, they have been providing safe and secure homes for over a 1000 years. Almshouses are run by charities, they are micro communities which have been created by philanthropists over centuries. Almshouses are first and foremost charities which operate for the wellbeing of the residents.

90% of Almshouses are for the local community and are all run by a leadership of local trustees who have an understanding of local needs and are accountable to the community.

The scale of Almshouses tends to be small, usually 6-12 units and are distinct of architecture, often a square horseshoe, providing a sense of community but some Almshouse charities have provision to support over 100 Almshouses.

Almshouses are distinct from other forms of housing because of their retention of 'historic license', this is not the same as a lease. They are exempt from 'Right to Buy' which is important because the homes remain available for their purpose in perpetuity.

There are 1,700 almshouse charities in the UK providing homes for 36,000 people living in today - more almshouses are being built now than ever before.

The Almshouse Association has been established for 75 years and is the voice for the movement and we are the voice to Government for Almshouses, we support with funding, guidance, training and seminars to our membership and our ambition is that Almshouses are recognized as the exemplar form of community housing.

Almshouses have been and will be a significant solution to the affordable housing crisis for centuries to come.



1 About us

Edmund Sawyer Almshouses

The charity was first established in the 17th Century for six women in need in Kettering. The building is Grade 11 star listed. It is reputed to be the oldest building in Kettering.

The charity had fallen into poor condition in 2018 and the board of the Leonard Hackett Memorial Trust stepped in and took over the charity. The team rescued the buildings carrying out immediate refurbishment.

In 2023 Historic England funded a complete refurbishment and in 2025 new electric heating was added.

The residents have been in place since 2018.

Mission

- Almshouses recognised as the exemplar model of community housing

Values

- Open and honest to members
- Open and human in communication with the media
- Treat each other and members with respect at all times.

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Role details



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Role details

Join Our Trustee Board: Shape the Future of a Historic Charity

We are seeking passionate and dedicated individuals to join the Trustee Board of the Kettering Almshouse, a 17th-century charitable institution gifted to support those in housing need in the parish of Kettering. This historic building has recently undergone extensive restoration work by English Heritage, and we are now looking for trustees to help guide this charity into its next chapter.

As a trustee, your role will involve ensuring the charity's continued success and sustainability, overseeing the ongoing care of the historic buildings, and ensuring our residents feel supported, valued, and at home. You'll be part of a small team responsible for protecting and enhancing a vital community asset, balancing tradition with modern needs.

Key responsibilities:

- Safeguard the legacy of this charitable institution.
- Ensure that the buildings are properly maintained and cared for.
- Support residents and make sure they feel secure and welcome in their homes.
- Guide the future direction of the Almshouse to meet evolving community needs.

What we are looking for:

Edmund Sawyer is particularly keen to hear from people who can bring the following skills and experience:

- Finance with a charity background desirable not essential
- Health and welfare of elderly people
- Management of social housing/Local Authority background/Regulation of social housing
- Law/Paralegal
- Charity governance

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Role details



Personal qualities

The personal qualities we look for in our trustees are:

- Commitment to Edmund Sawyer values.
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort using your knowledge and skills for the benefit of the charity.
- Good judgment and the ability to think creatively.
- The willingness to speak your mind and to work effectively as a member of a team and to take collective responsibility.

The role of Trustee can be enormously interesting, rewarding, and enjoyable. As a trustee of Edmund Sawyer Almshouse, you will be safeguarding the legacy of this charitable institution, ensuring the buildings are properly maintained and cared for and supporting residents and making sure they feel secure and welcome in their homes. You will also be part of the strategy to guide the future direction of the Almshouse to meet evolving community needs.

Time commitment

Trustees are expected to attend a minimum of 5 meetings per year. This includes four trustee Review Meetings and the AGM.

Given the size of the charity, it is likely that trustees would also be involved in occasional ad hoc meetings relating to property or resident issues.

The Almshouse Associate offers training in a one day course, and it would be anticipated that new trustees would attend the Almshouse Way Training Course (one day).

Further training and events available to those trustees who would like to attend.

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How to apply



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How to apply



Edmund Sawyer Almshouses are working exclusively with Charisma Charity Recruitment.

Expressions of interest for this unremunerated role should be submitted through the [Charisma website](#), and include:

- A comprehensive CV
- A supporting statement, explaining how you believe you match the requirements of the role and describing any potential conflicts of interest.

For an informal and confidential discussion about the role, please contact:

Sandra Smith, Associate Director of Charisma Charity Recruitment on 01962 813300 or email info@charismarecruitment.co.uk.

We welcome and encourage expressions of interest from people of all backgrounds. We do not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, colour, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status or other category protected by law.

Closing date: 31 August 2025

Charisma interviews must be completed on 3 September 2025, prior to shortlisting on 5 September 2025

Interviews with Edmund Sawyer Almshouses: TBC



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