

Become a trustee of



**Two Ridings**  
Community Foundation



# A message from Richard, our Chair

**Thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee of Two Ridings Community Foundation.**

Two Ridings is a driving force for positive change for people and communities throughout North and East Yorkshire. We ensure that people who want to invest in our region can channel their funds to support vital community action that transforms people's lives.

With an endowment of approximately £8 million and annual grant-making of approximately £2 million, we strive to respond to the immediate needs communities face, as well as creating opportunities for long-term change.

We are a trusted and effective partner and advocate, working with everyone from community groups to local businesses to councils and government departments.

Trustees at Two Ridings play a vital role in the governance and strategic development of our thriving charity. We meet four times a year, as well as contributing to sub-committees and ad hoc initiatives and events.

To complement existing expertise, we are particularly keen to recruit new trustees who bring deep knowledge and experience of the needs and potential of the varied communities with whom we work. We are also looking for trustees who bring finance and investment expertise.

We are keen to have a diverse board, a group of people that represent the variety of people and communities in our region. We strongly encourage those who are uncertain if they are suitable or qualified to talk to us regardless. We recognise potential, and support all our trustees to participate effectively in our foundation's work.

Being a trustee of Two Ridings provides an opportunity for personal and professional development, while making a difference in the region you love.

If you would like to know more, please do get in touch for an informal conversation.

Richard Frith  
Chair of Trustees



## What is a community foundation?

A community foundation connects people and organisations who want to give with local causes that matter to them.

It is a charitable organisation focused on supporting a defined geographical area by building endowments and generating funds to support community needs and local organisations making a difference.

Two Ridings is one of 47 accredited community foundations in the UK. Our region is wide and varied, it includes North and East Yorkshire (hence Two Ridings) and the cities of Hull and York. This brings an ever-changing array of opportunities, and challenges.

Community foundations offer a variety of grant-making programmes funded by donations from individuals, families, businesses as well as grants from local authorities and the Government.

Community foundations are unlike other regional charitable organisations because they do not focus on just one specific cause (like cancer or homelessness), they focus on a wide range of issues affecting their local communities.

# About Two Ridings

**Two Ridings plays a special and trusted role in our region by enabling people who want to give across North and East Yorkshire to set up funds and donate to causes they care about; issues like rural suicide, poverty and children's mental health and wellbeing.**

From those funds and donations Two Ridings makes grants and gives support to hundreds of grassroots community and charitable organisations across Yorkshire who provide crucial services and life changing activities for local people.

Those grants tackle inequality, alleviate poverty, address loneliness and improve wellbeing, helping to create strong, sustainable communities. Our work is exciting and varied.

Two Ridings works with funders, statutory bodies, families, businesses and individuals to realise a shared vision of a connected, thriving region for everyone.

Since our inception in 2000, we have delivered over £19 million into local communities benefiting thousands of people each year.

Our strong partnerships and unique insights see donors trust us with their giving to champion positive change where it is needed most.

Our people and knowledge are what makes us strong. Our engaged board of trustees work hand in hand with a core team of passionate staff.

Based in York, but with our roots all over the region, at Two Ridings it's all about local people being the difference.



## Our Vision

**A connected, thriving North and East Yorkshire for all**

## Our Mission

**With people at the heart of everything we do, we contribute to positive change in North & East Yorkshire by developing relationships, inspiring investment and making grants to transform lives and strengthen communities.**

## Donor development

Two Ridings enriches the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable people in Yorkshire every year, but that is only possible thanks to the generous people and organisations who give to us.

Their investment enables our transformational support to happen.

Our knowledge of tax efficient philanthropy and fund management in Yorkshire and the deep relationships we make with our donors ensures individual's investments impact the issues, communities and places that are close to their hearts.

## Grant making

Two Ridings awards grants to local community and charitable groups across the region.

Whether in times of crisis – flooding, coronavirus or right now the cost of living crisis – or in recognition of specific needs or issues, we use our skills network and knowledge, honed over 20 years, to make the most impact with our grant making, reacting quickly to reach those most in need.

We have a fair and equitable ethos of grant making ensuring the process is as simple and easy as possible for the people applying, whilst still honouring the wishes and requirements of our donors.

## Our impact

Since our inception in 2000, Two Ridings has delivered over £19 million into local communities benefiting thousands of people each year. Last year we gave out £2.1million to 634 groups improving the lives of nearly 100,000 people.

But the figures are only one side of our impact. The real impact is stories we hear on a daily basis of local people feeling included and having their voice heard, feeling happier and healthier, feeling that their lives have been transformed.

## Finance

Our income is from two main sources:

- Voluntary income from grants and donations which can be 'flow-through' or held as endowment.
- Investment income from our endowed funds managed by our investment managers.

Flow through donations and the return from our endowment are used to fund our grant programmes, a small percentage of which covers our administration and core costs.

Total income for 2022/2023 was £2.9m and our endowment fund at the year end was £8.1m.

We hold free reserves to cover 7 months of core operating costs to ensure the smooth running of the organisation in the event of unforeseen financial circumstances.

## Our Values

**We are committed to being:**

### **Transformative**

**We enable thriving, equitable and connected communities.**

### **Trustworthy**

**We conduct our work with integrity, transparency and competence.**

### **Compassionate**

**We treat each other, and everyone we work with, with care, empathy and respect.**

### **Connected**

**We value the relationships, experience and insight rooted in local communities, and understand the impact of place on people's lives.**

### **Generous**

**We share our resources and knowledge, work collaboratively and build inclusive relationships.**



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# Our region

**If you are interested in this role, you will already know that our region - York, North and East Yorkshire and Hull - is a tale of many different places and issues.**

Oh yes, you will know that God's own country is beautiful, varied and inspiring. But scratch below the surface and you see a different story, perhaps a story people aren't so familiar with.

Our region has been chronically underfunded over the years, both through Government and charitable funders. This, combined with hidden poverty, loneliness and mental health issues, means our work as a community foundation is more crucial than ever.

The local charities we support are still dealing with higher than ever levels of demand post the pandemic. The cost of living crisis sees more and more people relying on local community services, not just for 'nice haves', but for crisis support.

Increased operating costs, sometimes four-fold from the year before are seeing some charities fold or being very close to it.

Our coastal towns are struggling; pockets of deprivation and poverty are just behind the 'tourist-friendly' seafront. The young people we talk to see them as towns designed with tourists in mind, not for local people to live in and thrive.

The vibrant city of Hull has an abundance of creativity and brilliant community organisations, however, the inequalities and hardship run deep through many communities.

Being such a large county, rural towns and villages have dire transport issues, huge digital divides and are acutely affected by loneliness and isolation.

As a trustee at Two Ridings, you will understand that 'place' is paramount to all the work we do.



# Our long term plan

We are more than half way through our current five year plan which highlights our four key aims:

## People at the heart of everything we do

**We are in the business of people; people and places working together to make change. Without people at the heart, everything else we do is irrelevant.**

We are constantly giving the people we work alongside, the groups we support, our donors and our volunteers the opportunity to tell us what they think and we listen and act.

With a vision for a connected and thriving region for everyone, we put people first.

We are a relational funder, this means more than giving grants. It's about the wrap around support we give and the trust that inspires.

## Inspiring investment into Yorkshire

**Through building strong and meaningful relationships with our supporters and sharing the inspirational stories of the difference made, we inspire investment into the region.**

People trust Two Ridings. They know our investing is equitable and ethical and we are the best place for charitable giving in North and East Yorkshire.

Without those funds and donations coming in, we cannot provide the grants and support that makes us impactful and a vital difference in our communities.

Investing in Two Ridings creates momentum; an energy, a real opportunity for growth and change.

## Transforming communities through grant making

**A small amount of funding can transform a community and we have the knowledge and relationships to make that happen.**

Because we understand the people and places that make up the region, we make grants based on need.

We have a robust grant making process that is transparent, fair and responsive. We are known as an organisation that is impartial and goes that extra mile for the groups we support.

We used lived and learnt experience to ensure we are constantly in tune with the communities we work alongside.

Our processes are transformative, not transactional.

## Using our knowledge to champion positive change

**Two Ridings is a force for good, an advocate for a fair and equal North and East Yorkshire.**

We measure our impact, both in our grant making and throughout the wider organisation, through UN Sustainable Development goals.

We are not afraid to push boundaries, or to test out a new approach.

We have an openness for innovation, a hunger for dynamic working demonstrated in our participatory grant making, collaborative leadership network and panels run by young people and people with lived experiences.



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# The trustee role

**With a ground-breaking Royal visit under our belt, £1.3 million being invested in Hull to combat loneliness, our 400-strong Leadership programme steering transformative change, and over 600 grants made this year, there has never been a more exciting time to join the Two Ridings board.**

**We are looking for up to four new trustees** to contribute to our vision of thriving and connected communities across our region. In particular, we are keen to welcome trustees with the following ideals:

**With a deep commitment to the people and places of North and East Yorkshire,** you may bring first-hand experience of the needs of community groups and the people they work alongside. You will understand the potential that can be unlocked by impactful and equitable funding, and be passionate about ensuring that our work is relevant and catalytic, particularly among those communities who experience the greatest disadvantage.

**With a determination that charities have the resources to pursue their mission,** you may have expertise in finance and investment. Your skillset may be in shaping and monitoring our investment strategy, or ensuring that our financial planning, management and controls are of the highest standard.

**With people at the heart of everything we do,** you will enjoy being part of a board that seeks to draw on the widest possible range of expertise and perspectives. You will understand the importance of ensuring that our Foundation complies with its legal requirements and manages all aspects of its work effectively. You will enjoy the responsibility of offering both support and challenge to our Chief Executive and senior leadership team. You will want the charity to be a great place to work, for the benefit of the people and communities of our region.

You could be at any point in your career and may have lived or learnt experience of the issues we support as your main drive for applying for the role.



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# Terms of service

The trustee role at Two Ridings is a voluntary role. Travel and other expenses incurred in relation to trustee duties can be reimbursed. We want trustees who can contribute fully to our board meetings, as well as participating in one of our board sub-committees.

## Time commitment:

Board meetings: 2-3 hours, 4 times per year

Committee meetings: 2 hours, approximately 3-4 times per year

Other activities as agreed.

## Location:

Our board meetings currently take place at the Two Ridings office in York. It is also possible to arrange to join online. Committee meetings take place online.

**Duration of service:** minimum term of three years

# How to apply

Please send a 1-page Expression of Interest and a CV by email to: [recruitment@tworidingscf.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@tworidingscf.org.uk).

In line with our EDI policy, we request that all applicants considering completing an equality and diversity monitoring form. Read more: <https://www.tworidingscf.org.uk/vacancies/>

Closing date: **9.00am Monday 8 January 2024**

Interviews: **w/c 22 February 2024**

# Want to chat about the role?

Please email [recruitment@tworidingscf.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@tworidingscf.org.uk) to arrange an informal chat with Richard, our Chair of Trustees, or Celia, our Chief Executive.

# We are looking for people who are:

- **Passionate advocates for community action** in Yorkshire, who understand the potentials and needs of community and voluntary sector organisations, and want to make a positive difference to people's lives.
- **Thoughtful, empathetic communicators**, able to listen and engage in a broad range of settings with a variety of people.
- **Strategic thinkers** with the ability to contribute to decision-making around long-term direction, business planning and business development, and financial oversight.
- **A critical friend** who can generously offer ideas, challenge and guidance to an experienced staff team



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# Trustees' formal responsibilities

Strategy and management	Governance	Financial oversight & internal controls
<p><b>Our board ensures that the foundation's vision and strategy remains compelling and tackles the pressing needs identified within the communities of North &amp; East Yorkshire, working in partnership with the staff team. This includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval and review of the organisation's long-term strategy and objectives.</li><li>• Review of the organisation's performance in relation to its strategy, business development plans and budgets.</li><li>• Oversight of the organisation's operations including:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All grant-making programmes</li><li>2. Adequate accounting and other records;</li><li>3. Compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations.</li></ol></li></ul>	<p><b>Our trustees oversee the systems and processes that guide the overall direction and leadership of the foundation. This includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overseeing the work of the Chief Executive</li><li>• Succession planning for the Board to ensure there is an appropriate balance of skills and experience.</li><li>• Approval of appointments to the Board.</li><li>• Membership of the committees of the Board or ad hoc working groups.</li><li>• Undertaking a formal review of the Board's effectiveness.</li><li>• Review of organisational policies to ensure good practice.</li></ul>	<p><b>Supplemented by our Investment and Finance and General Purposes sub-committees, our board ensures effective oversight of our organisational finances. This includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of the annual budget and review of revised forecasts throughout the year.</li><li>• Approval of the annual report and accounts.</li><li>• Approval of significant changes in accounting policies.</li><li>• Approval of significant changes in treasury management policy.</li><li>• Ensuring maintenance of a sound system of internal control and risk management.</li></ul>

