

Age UK Stockport Chairperson Recruitment Pack 2026



Welcome and thank you for your interest in being the Chair of Age UK Stockport

We are seeking a new Chair for our Board of Trustees.

This pack will give you the information you need to help you decide if being the Chair of Age UK Stockport is something you'd like to do and, if so, how to apply.

This is an exciting time to lead Age UK Stockport's Board. Our Board has recently been refreshed after the recruitment of three new trustees who, alongside our established trustees, complete the Board membership.

Our current Chair will be standing down later this year having served the maximum term for the role. We are looking for a dedicated, creative person, with a range of appropriate professional and life experiences to become our next Chair. The successful candidate would join the Board as trustee and Chair Designate and then be elected Chair at the AGM in the autumn of 2026.

To be the Chair of Age UK Stockport is to be an active volunteer in our community. But it's not the easiest volunteering role! It can be challenging, but rewarding, and a big responsibility. Along with your fellow trustees, you will have collective legal responsibilities – working together for the best interests of Age UK Stockport and for the people in later life we work with across the borough.

If you're passionate about supporting everyone to make the most of their later life, and you have the skills and experience to help lead and shape our organisation to achieve its vision, we'd like to hear from you.

Our vision is for Stockport to be a place where everyone is able to make the most of later life, living as valued members of their communities

Connected

Confident

Creative

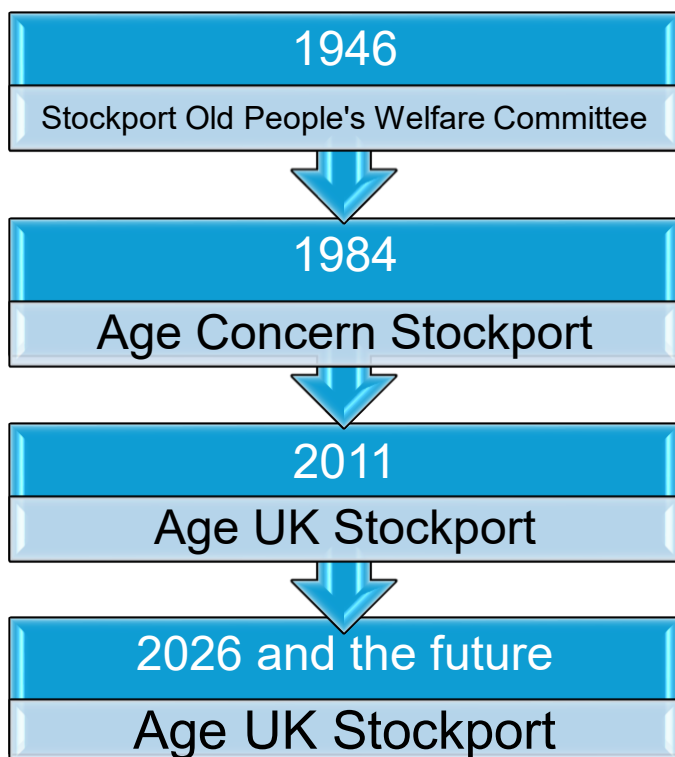
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1. Age UK Stockport – where we started, including a history of recent Chairs of the charity
2. What the charity does now and our ambitions for the future
3. Our governance and structure – how the Chair fits in and contributes
4. Role description of the Chair – roles and responsibilities
5. An outline of the recruitment process, including how to apply
6. Thanks

1. ABOUT AGE UK STOCKPORT

Where we started....



Age UK Stockport's roots are shared with the wider Age UK network and lie in the Second World War, when everyone was experiencing shortages, including many people in later life.

Stockport Old People's Welfare Committee was formed in 1946, specifically devoted "to the welfare of elderly people in the Stockport area".

After 38 years of developing new services and advocating with older people in the borough, it was decided that the charity should become Age Concern Stockport, plus become a registered charity and join the Age Concern movement.

We became Age UK Stockport in 2011 when Age Concern England merged with Help the Aged forming a new charity, Age UK.

Recent History of Chairs of Age UK Stockport

There has been a settled group of Board members through our history - always benefiting from being able to balance consistency and experience from long standing

trustees with a positive number of new trustees to keep the Board fresh and moving forwards.

The organisation has also benefited from strong leadership from people who have each seen through their maximum terms. The term was extended from six to nine years to enable the organisation to benefit from consistent and continued experience during many external changes i.e. within charities, health and social care and the wider local, regional and national context. In addition, being an independent charity within membership of the Age UK federation has also gone through many changes.

Janet Mehta was Chair up to 2011. She was a local Health Visitor with long standing commitments within Stockport. Janet remained Chair through the change from Age Concern Stockport to Age UK Stockport. She then stayed on as trustee for a further three years.

Derek Caldwell, previously Chief Executive at Stepping Hill Hospital, joined as Chair designate and was Chair for his full term until 2018.

Sue Alting, our current Chair, is standing down because she too will have served the maximum term for the role.

For more background on our history, go to [Age UK Stockport - History](#)

2. AGE UK STOCKPORT TODAY AND TOMORROW

Our vision – what we aim to happen - is for Stockport to be a place where everyone can make the most of later life, living as valued members of their communities.

We achieve this by:

- Having wellbeing at the centre of what we do
- Supporting wellbeing in people's homes and in our communities
- Offering support - physical, social, financial, psychological

Our priorities are to:

- Keep the future in mind in all our work – futureproof what we do
- Campaign and influence against age discrimination
- Use a strength-based approach throughout our organisation
- Know our audiences better - both those we support now and people new to us

To achieve these aims and priorities we will:

- Work with others
- Be active
- Influence organisations and people
- Be effective

Current Services

Age UK Stockport offers a variety of services to help people live independently and safely at home and in their communities. These include:

- Information & Signposting
- Ageing well
- Digital support
- Domestic abuse support
- Handy Help
- Home support
- Hospital discharge
- Prevention / Early intervention
- Tandem Support Services

Many of these services are delivered in partnership with other public and third sector organisations.

Current activities

We also offer a range of weekly community-based activities like walking, bingo, exercises classes, coffee mornings and community clean-ups.

For more details about our services and activities, click here: [Age UK Stockport Services](#)

We are part of the Age UK Federated Network

We are an independent charity working locally. We also choose to be one of over 110 local Age UKs across England that share the Age UK brand and offer a wide range of services for people in later life.

There is a national Age UK charity that works to influence change in England and the UK in the best interests of people in later life, delivers national services, and supports the broader Age UK family in a variety of practical ways.

There are sister national Age UKs in Cymru, Northern Ireland and Scotland that serve the older populations in their respective countries. There is also Age International which responds to the needs and promotes the rights of people in later life, especially in low- and middle- income countries, and works to influence change at a global level.

Future challenges and opportunities

Charities come in all shapes and forms, but a consistent theme of the last year or so has been unpredictable and challenging times.

One of our priorities is futureproofing Age UK Stockport. We recognise the challenges locally. We have worked and are working hard to meet them.

With every challenge, there are opportunities. These include:

- AI and the digital transformation
- Collaboration, partnerships and mergers
- A focus on “the local” - demonstrating tangible, immediate, and transparent impact

- The potential for new fundraising models
- New types of volunteering

To meet these challenges and seize the opportunities, Age UK Stockport aims:

- To be resilient and sustainable, delivering what people need and want
- For the people we work with to be resilient and have control, choice and independence

3. OUR GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

We are a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. We are registered with both the Charity Commission and with Companies House. We, therefore, comply with both Charity Law and Company Law, as well as other relevant laws and regulations.

Composition of the Board - The Board is made up of up to six elected trustees, plus a Chair.

Chair role - Being the Chair is a voluntary role; it is not a paid position. The Chair is selected on the basis of their skills and experience, plus their knowledge of the local communities of Stockport. Age UK Stockport is an incorporated charity, so the Chair is both a trustee and director and holds the responsibilities of being a trustee and director as well as those of being our Chair.

Election to the Board - The Chair can be appointed to the Board and then formally elected at our Annual General Meeting. Our AGM is held every year usually in the Autumn.

Responsibilities of the Board - The Board has the overall legal responsibility for the organisation. It is responsible and accountable for ensuring good governance, including complying with all relevant laws and regulations, sound financial management and risk management.

Meetings of the Board - The Board of Trustees and Board Committees meet every two months throughout the year.

Staff and Volunteers - We employ 65+ members of staff and currently engage 30+ volunteers with more on the horizon.

4. ROLE DESCRIPTION OF OUR CHAIR

To help you decide whether being our Chair is something you are interested in and would like to apply for, below is the role description of our Chair.

Please read through before applying.

Chair of Age UK Stockport – Role Description

We are looking for a Chair with the interest and commitment to lead and drive forward the development of Age UK Stockport in line with our core values – to be Connected, Confident and Creative.

Overall purpose of the Chair's role

The Chair leads the Board, ensuring that it governs the charity effectively. You will support the Board to work together well and will manage and support the Chief Executive. The Chair is also an ambassador for the charity.

As Chair, you are also a trustee of the charity and need to fulfil the responsibilities of being a trustee alongside those of being the organisation's Chair.

Main responsibilities of the Chair

- Provide strategic leadership to the charity and the Board, ensuring effective governance and accountability
- Work in partnership with trustees, the Chief Executive and staff / volunteer team to achieve Age UK Stockport's mission, vision and objectives
- Plan and chair the Board meetings and the AGM working with others to achieve this
- Act as a spokesperson and figurehead for Age UK Stockport
- Ensure Board meetings are properly run and recorded
- Represent Age UK Stockport externally, helping, with others, to build partnerships with funders, local / regional authorities, and community organisations
- With others, ensure the charity remains financially sustainable and operationally strong, delivering excellence for people in later life
- Recognise and make best use of trustees' skills and experience
- Line manage the Chief Executive on behalf of the trustees

**Being the
Chair means
you:**

- lead the Board
- are a "first among equals"
- guide decision making and board dynamics
- line manage and support the Chief Executive

What we are looking for Essential

- Experience at Board level or of being a trustee. You do not need to have been a Chair before

- A clear commitment to the organisation, its vision and mission
- A keen sense of strategic purpose
- An inclusive leadership style: able to inspire and support everyone to participate on an equal footing
- The ability to listen and engage effectively. You are comfortable with challenge and debate, and are able to encourage that in others, whilst fostering a collaborative board environment
- Advocate - be able and willing to champion Age UK Stockport's work through personal networks, social media, and other channels
- A strong personal commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion
- Be responsive. Sometimes issues 'come up' that require the Chair to advise, support or give consent to between Board meetings. It is very helpful to have a Chair who is available and responsive

Terms of appointment

Appointment

- The successful candidate would join the Board as trustee and Chair Designate and then be elected Chair at the next AGM in the autumn of 2026. This process would give the new Chair time to get to know the organisation, its people and how the Board works and for the charity to enable an effective handover.

Terms of office

- The Chair is appointed for a three-year term of office, renewable for a further two terms, so for a maximum of nine years
- This is a voluntary position, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed

Time commitment (estimated at 16 hours per month, though can be higher e.g. when an external quality assessment is undertaken)

- Chairing Board and committee meetings every two months
- Monthly scheduled meetings and weekly catch-ups with the Chief Executive, with flexibility to respond swiftly to ad hoc issues
- Attending awaydays
- Chairing the AGM every Autumn
- Oversight and authorisation of all payments made by the charity

Role of trustee

As well as being the Chair, you would also be a trustee of the charity. In summary, the role of a trustee is:

- having collective responsibility for the governance of the organisation and for all decisions made by the Board.
- helping set the strategic direction
- helping set organisational policy
- agreeing the financial plan
- evaluating performance

Local Commitment

Age UK Stockport is a 'local' charity with a focus on the people living and working in the Borough of Stockport. We will, therefore, generally look for a local connection from our trustees to actively support this commitment.

The benefits of being our Chair

There are many benefits to being our Chair. These include:

- Sharing your skills whilst developing new ones
- Making a positive difference to the lives of local people
- Giving back to the local community as a volunteer
- Being involved with a local organisation and be part of an enthusiastic and committed team
- Gaining valuable experience and knowledge by working with an organisation linked to a recognised and respected national charity
- Gaining knowledge of and being involved with wider developments for example across Greater Manchester
- Developing skills and experience in non-executive governance and trusteeship

5. AN OUTLINE OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS INCLUDING HOW TO APPLY

The deadline for you to apply to be our Chair is **Wednesday 3rd June 2026**.

To apply, please download the Recruitment Pack and Expression of Interest Application Form from our website [Applying to be our Chair](#)

Please read the Pack and, if interested, complete the Application Form by Wednesday 3rd June 2026 and email it to Applications@ageukstockport.org.uk

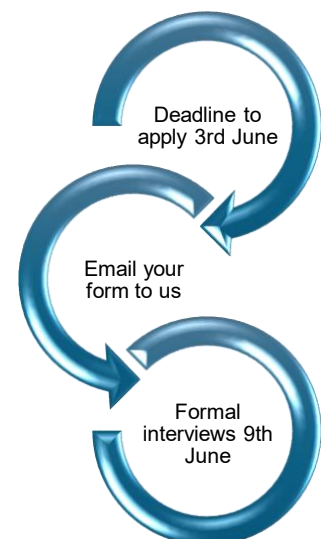
Your application will be acknowledged on receipt.

** Please note, we will not accept CVs **

If having read the Recruitment Pack you are interested in applying, we encourage you to have an informal chat with our current Chair. Please email Applications@ageukstockport.org.uk with your name, email and phone number and we will arrange a call.

Formal interviews will be held on **Tuesday 9th June 2026** at our Commonweal offices in Stockport. Please keep a note of this date in case you are shortlisted.

We hope for the Chair Designate to join the Board in June/July 2026.



6. THANKS

Thanks again for your interest in potentially being our next Chair. We look forward to receiving your application.

For further information about Age UK Stockport, please go to [Age UK Stockport website](#)

Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is to work locally for your wellbeing

Our vision is for Stockport to be a place where everyone is able to make the most of later life, living as valued members of their communities