



Become a Trustee

Help guide the future of Age UK Plymouth and make a real difference to the lives of older people.

Welcome from the Trustees

Thank you for your interest in joining Age UK Plymouth as a Trustee.

Age UK Plymouth was established in 1942 following the Plymouth blitz. Over the last 80 years the charity has evolved to continue meeting the needs of older people in the city.

We are incredibly proud of the strong reputation that Age UK Plymouth has in the city, and this has been developed by delivering high quality services. Our Information and Advice service provides vital support in accessing benefits such as Attendance Allowance.

In 2024/25 this small team helped older people in Plymouth secure £2.71m of unclaimed entitlements.

Our other services include two day centres, one of which specialises in supporting people living with dementia. In addition, we operate numerous other projects and sessions, such as our Veterans Sticky Bun Morning, Cancer Support Cafes, and community coffee mornings.

As has been the case for so many charities, the last few years have presented financial challenges for the organisation. Healthy reserves meant that the charity has been able to navigate challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, and the more recent increases in employers National Insurance. However, the board recognise the need for the charity to evolve, both in terms of how our income is generated and in the services we provide.

We're looking to expand our dedicated team of Trustees to support the next stage of our work in Plymouth. A recent skills audit (June 2025) identified areas that would strengthen our board, outlined in 'The Role' section. Most importantly, we're seeking individuals who are passionate about our vision, mission and values.

Thank you very much,
Age UK Plymouth Board of Trustees



Who we are

Age UK Plymouth is an independent registered charity supporting older people in Plymouth.

We are a brand partner of Age UK, which means whilst we operate under the Age UK brand, we remain an independent legal entity, responsible for our own governance and operations.

Our mission statement

Age UK Plymouth exists to care for and work with older people and their carers in and around the city of Plymouth to improve their quality of life through the promotion of choice, opportunity and independence.

Our vision

Let's change how we age in Plymouth.

Our values

Trusted, compassionate, innovative.

We offer a range of services including our Day Centres and Information & Advice services, working closely with partners like the NHS and Plymouth City Council to support older people and their carers. Our current focus is tackling loneliness in Plymouth through a variety of activities and events that help people feel more connected to their community.

By partnering with local organisations and charities, we provide trusted information, advice, and options to help improve lives and change how we age.

In 2022, Age UK Plymouth celebrated 80 years of supporting people over 50 in the city. Founded through the efforts of Elspeth Sitters OBE, who was inspired to act after volunteering with older people during the Plymouth blitz. The charity has grown and evolved to meet challenging needs and while the challenges have shifted over the years, our commitment remains the same:

To be here for older people in Plymouth.

Our Finances

We receive statutory authority funding for our day centres. In addition, we receive trust and grant funding as well as donations and legacies. Some of our services are paid by our clients. Total annual income is in the region of £2.2m.

We have had to make some difficult financial decisions over the last twelve months to ensure the ongoing viability of the charity. We are confident that these decisions will ensure Age UK Plymouth will continue to provide the highest standard of support for our clients.



Our planned deficit for the current financial year will be significantly less than the previous. This will be achieved by a degree of restructuring and prudent financial management. We will then be aiming for a break even followed by surplus budgets.



Our reserves currently stand at £1.8m of which £801k sits in investments and the remainder reflects our fixed assets.



Our Board

Age UK Plymouth is a trading name of Plymouth Age Concern, a company limited by guarantee, and a registered charity.

We are supported by a dedicated team of voluntary Trustees, who are the Directors of the organisation. The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and the management team.

There are currently two committees, but with the recruitment of additional trustees we have the ambition to increase this to three to ensure that the board is supporting the full breadth of the charity. Each trustee also serves on a minimum of one committee. These are: Finance and Investment, Services Quality and Safety and Income and Development (to be established).

The full-board meets four times a year, and each committee also meets four times a year ahead of the full-board meetings. Full board meetings are held at our Head Office in Plymouth, with an option to join virtually. Committee meetings are held as either hybrid or virtual meetings depending on the committee.

We hold two strategy/planning days each year, which are held in person in Plymouth (or nearby).

“We are responsible for the delivery of an essential service in Plymouth and the wider areas. This is deeply rewarding and why, we volunteer as we do.”

Our Trustees

Elizabeth Bombieri

Peter Burroughs MBE

Neill Robb

Donna O'Connor

Ashima Sawheny

We are particularly keen to find new Trustees who have a background in finance, IT, health and social care, law, fundraising and service design.

“The most enjoyable aspect of volunteering is that it brings one into contact with so many lovely people; the clients, staff, other volunteers and the rest of the board.”

The role requires a time commitment of around one day per month, which includes meeting preparation and attendance, strategy days, and supporting your team in your area of expertise. This is an excellent experience, especially for those new to non-executive roles. Please note that this role is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

We welcome any enquiries as well as the opportunity for informal conversation about the charity and/or role of Trustee. Please email alltrustees@ageukplymouth.org.uk.