



'Everyone deserves good food'

CRACKING GOOD FOOD CIC

BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

If you are passionate about improving food security, community growing, sustainability and a fairer food system for all in Greater Manchester – then joining our Board of Directors might be for you!

We are living in a time of crisis with over 620,000 people living in poverty in Greater Manchester. Food banks have become normalised and are stretched to their limits and vast communities of people are having to choose between heating their house or cooking a meal. Cracking Good Food are passionate about working collaboratively with others to build food-secure, healthy, resilient communities with strong local economies by increasing access to healthy, culturally appropriate ingredients and sharing the skills and knowledge to cook tasty food from scratch.

CGF are looking for 2 people to join our Board of Directors. We aim for diversity across our Board members, partners and stakeholders and we welcome expressions of interest from individuals from a range of backgrounds, from the LGBTQ+2 communities, ethnic groups, people living with disabilities and those connected with the communities we support. We are particularly keen to hear from people who have volunteered with CGF or who have taken part in our community projects, who can offer a unique perspective to discussions and decision making in order to help us to develop effective and engaging projects. We offer induction to all Board members and additional support is available for individuals without prior board experience or with differing access needs. Whilst board members will be expected to share their particular areas of expertise the role remains voluntary, advisory and not executive.

Who are we?

We are Cracking Good Food, a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC). We launched in 2010, with the aim of encouraging and supporting more people to cook affordable, seasonal and nutritious homemade food from scratch.

Driven by our belief that EVERYONE deserves good food, our mission is simple: to work collaboratively with others to increase food security, social eating and wellbeing via good food, especially amongst marginalised communities in Greater Manchester.

We enthuse, encourage, and teach individuals and groups how to source and cook affordable, healthy, and tasty food from scratch, whilst minimising both food waste and our environmental impact.

We do this by delivering accessible and empowering cooking courses and training, as part of a wider campaign for affordable, sustainable & healthier food for all. During Covid we harnessed over 13,000 volunteer hours to cook & distribute over 95,000 meals for people in need of support across Greater Manchester using perfectly good ingredients intercepted from food waste. This summer, we have intercepted more than 3.5 tonnes of fresh fruit and veg and redistributed it to people living in areas which sit in the 10% most deprived in the country.

Throughout all of our work, we strive to support people to cook and eat as sustainably, seasonally and affordably as possible.

Our values

- Cooperative and collaborative working to ensure a joined-up approach to our work
- Environmentalism and sustainability is at the heart of our work
- Equality, accessibility, and inclusivity
- Fair wages (we are a Living Wage employer)
- Integrity and honesty exercising constructive self-criticism for organisational improvement
- Striving for improvement via self-reflection and responding to feedback
- Supporting local economies

What is a CIC?

As a Community Interest Company, we are a limited company who exist to benefit the community rather than private shareholders. We work to a social enterprise model, meaning we subsidise our community outreach work by running paid-for cookery school classes, team building activities, foraging expeditions and other income-generating activities. Our team of freelance cooks, project managers, co-ordinators and administrators are led by 2 Directors, Tracey Torley and Gemma Foxcroft, who are responsible for running and developing the business. Tracey and Gemma are accountable to a voluntary Board of Directors whose roles and responsibilities are outlined below.

CIC Directors – Responsibilities

CIC directors are responsible for ensuring that the company meets its statutory and other obligations. As with any other company, the Directors of a CIC occupy an important position of trust and general company law imposes on them a range of duties to the company and other responsibilities. In addition to these general responsibilities, CIC Directors are also responsible for ensuring that the company is run in such a way that it will continue to satisfy the 'community interest test'. In practice, this will mean having regard to the interests of the community the CIC is intended to serve. The role of the Board of non-exec Directors is to ensure that the resources of the CIC are well managed and applied in the best manner possible to achieve the vision, mission, and values of Cracking Good Food and that the company is complying with all statutory duties and responsibilities, as well as agreed responsibilities. The Board must always act in the best interests of Cracking Good Food and must act as a group and not as individuals.

What would the role require of me?

Time commitment

- Annually scheduled quarterly Board Meetings (held online on a weekday from 7-9pm)
- Consideration of and response to all issues raised in the meeting agenda
- Sharing of skills and participation in task groups as agreed at induction or on an agreed-upon ad-hoc basis.
- Participation in the recruitment and induction process as detailed in timeline below.

Required skills

- Commitment to the CIC's objects, vision, mission, vision values and willingness to devote time to carry out responsibilities.
- Strategic and forward-looking vision in relation to the CIC's objects and aims
- Good, independent judgement and the ability to think creatively in the context of the organisation and external environment
- Good communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to respect the confidences of colleagues
- Balancing tact and diplomacy with willingness to challenge and constructively criticize

- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of CGF

We are seeking Directors with skills and experience which can support and inform our fight for food security in Greater Manchester. This could include:

- Lived experience of food insecurity, poverty and/or marginalisation
- Bid writing
- Marketing
- HR
- PR/Communications
- Finance
- Legal
- Community healthcare provision

Remuneration

- The role of Director is unpaid, although reasonable expenses for travel and other expenditure incurred relating to Cracking Good Food duties may be claimed

Recruitment Timeline

Please submit your CV and expressions of interest in the role by email to tracey@crackinggoodfood.org before 22/10. Alternatively, you can submit a video expression of interest by email outlining your suitability.

Your expression of interest should be no more than 700 words, outlining your skill set, suitability and why you are interested in the role. If you would like any further information on the role beforehand, please feel free to email us any questions or to arrange an informal chat.

We will let you know by 29/10 if your application will be taken forward, and further in-depth meetings will take place on the week starting 8/11. Please do get in touch if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.