

# DRIVING EXCELLENCE IN QUALITY

The CQI's Board of Trustees speaks to *Quality World* about its roles, responsibilities, and next steps for taking the 2020-30 Strategy forward in the organisation

The Board of Trustees plays a vital role in setting and governing the strategic direction of the CQI, so that the institute continues to remain a viable and sustainable organisation for the quality profession. Trustees are responsible for the overall performance, sustainability and legal compliance of the CQI, by making sure that the institute is managing risk and opportunity effectively, and is operating in accordance with its legal and financial requirements.

At the Board's helm is Chair Ian Mitchell, CQP FCQI, who is responsible for chairing the Board of Trustees' meetings, the CQI's annual general meeting (AGM), and line managing the CQI's CEO Vince Desmond. Speaking to *Quality World* about the Board, Mitchell said: "The Board is responsible for setting a strategy to deliver the requirements set out within the Royal Charter within the legal framework set by the Charity Commission." He continued: "During my tenure so far, I have implemented an effective governance structure through which to implement our strategy and constructed a Board that represents the diverse breadth and depth of a profession we aspire to lead."



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**Ian Mitchell**

Another notable achievement for Mitchell and the Board was setting the CQI's 2020-30 Strategy, after conducting a strategic review into the business during the organisation's centenary year in 2019. Working closely and collaborating with the CQI's Executive Team, the Board of Trustees developed a 10-year roadmap for the institute, as the quality industry starts to enter a new era of societal, technological and geopolitical change.

Trustees are in charge of reviewing the progress of the CQI's 2020-30 Strategy and making necessary adjustments as and when required, so the institute continues to remain on track to achieve its strategy objectives throughout the next decade. The Board is currently looking for new Trustees to join the Board and help take the CQI's 2020-30 Strategy forward and lead on other important duties on behalf of the institute.

## Selection process

Trustees are appointed to the Board via the CQI's Nominating Committee – whose main purpose is to manage the robust selection process of CQI members as Trustees. Once the group has identified the most suitable candidates for the role, their applications are put forward to the Membership Council for a formal election. "We want individuals with passion, ideas and focus to support the quality profession into the future," said Suzanne Hill, CQP FCQI, Chair of the Nominating Committee. "The CQI 2020-30 Strategy needs steering and deploying; the Board of Trustees direct its implementation on behalf of, and for the benefit of, CQI members. Strong and focused Trustees are therefore needed to undertake this important task."

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Hill drives the process of selecting and recommending trustee candidates to the Membership Council for election and re-election, while creating a fair, ethical and robust recruitment process. "During 2019, we improved the Board of Trustees nominating process to refine the process steps, plan the election activity, and focus the interview process on the competencies required of a Trustee," said Hill.

She added: "The Nominating Committee has recently



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**Suzanne Hill**



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created a 'New Trustee Talent Development Process', which we are launching in the third quarter of 2020 as a succession planning tool, to identify and develop active CQI volunteers with great potential to become Trustees."

## Board benefits

Richard Allan, CQP FCQI, former Director in Global Quality Assurance at Kimberly-Clark, UK, also serves on the Nominating Committee, and has been on the Board of Trustees for three years. Allan, together with the other Trustees, meets up with the CQI's Executive Team on a quarterly

basis to review how the CQI is operating its performance against the strategic plan and charitable purpose. Prior to the meeting, Trustees are expected to review the required paperwork and raise any issues or concerns that might need further clarity or discussion during the next meeting.

Serving on the Board for several years has helped Allan acquire skills and experience to take forward in his career in quality. Allan says, for him, "the biggest benefit for becoming a Trustee was moving into a role which gave me independent oversight over a whole business." He explained: "I was no longer on a management team as a

quality management expert, but as a non-executive leader ensuring the CQI strategic direction, risks and performance are appropriate."

Rachelle Beasley, CQP MCQI, Transformation Lead at Hafod, UK, officially started her position as a Trustee in March this year. Similarly to Allan, the role has provided her with a "wealth of experience" and the opportunity to give back to a profession that she is passionate about. "Making the decision to apply to become a Trustee was easy because I wanted to have the opportunity to contribute to the profession and the CQI, ensuring the future of quality," she said. "I really enjoyed the application process, which was challenging and fair. The Nominating Committee did a great job ensuring the initial application was thorough, as it should be."

Beasley concluded: "When I started this role, the Board clearly explained to me about the legal obligations and expected behaviours of a Trustee, which you must carry with you at all times. As quality professionals, it's our responsibility to secure the future of quality and I'm grateful to have been given this opportunity."



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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Want to be part of the CQI's Board of Trustees? We are looking for CQI members and Fellows to join the CQI's primary governance body

CQI Trustees set the strategy and direction for the institute and monitor implementation and progress. We are looking for individuals who are already actively contributing to the CQI who want to grow/extend that commitment to become a Trustee on the Board. Together with an existing passion to support the institute, your business acumen and strategic experience will guide and drive the CQI's vision for 'Excellence in the quality profession' and 'Excellence as a professional body'. If this sounds like you and you are willing to disrupt/challenge the status quo and contribute to enhancing the strategic direction, we would love to hear from you.

### Applicants should:

- Be a member or Fellow of the CQI.
- Not be disqualified from acting as a charity trustee.
- Apply by sending in your CV via the webform at [quality.org/trustee-elections-2020](https://quality.org/trustee-elections-2020)

The deadline for applications is 16 October 2020.

