



Young
Enterprise

Member of JA Worldwide

Applicant Information Pack

Young Enterprise Chair

May 2026



A message from our outgoing Chair

Dear Candidate

As I prepare to step down after seven years as Chair at the end of this year, I do so with a deep sense of pride in all that this organisation has achieved and with great optimism for its future. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated trustees, colleagues and partners, all united by a shared commitment to improving financial and enterprise education for young people across the UK.

At a time when the economy and workplace are evolving faster than ever, with technology and artificial intelligence reshaping industries almost by the day, ensuring young people develop the financial capability, confidence and enterprise skills they need to navigate their futures has never been more important. Through our programmes, we aim to equip young people with the financial understanding and enterprising mindset that will help them thrive in an increasingly complex world, while also helping them build the wider skills, confidence and work readiness needed to take their next steps into employment, further education or enterprise.

During my tenure, the charity has evolved significantly. We have refreshed our strategy and sharpened our focus on impact and reach, strengthened our governance, and welcomed a new Chief Executive whose energy and vision are helping to drive the organisation forward. Together, these developments position the charity strongly for its next phase of growth and influence.

What has remained constant, however, is our core purpose: to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to thrive, and to contribute to the wider society, no matter their starting point. This mission has never felt more important, and it continues to inspire everyone involved in the charity's work.

The role of Chair is both rewarding and demanding. It offers the opportunity to shape strategic direction, support and challenge an excellent executive team, and work collaboratively with a committed Board of Trustees. It also provides a unique vantage point from which to see the tangible difference the charity makes in the lives of young people.

As I look ahead, I am excited to pass on this responsibility to someone who shares our passion and ambition. We are seeking an individual who will bring energy, sound judgement and a deep commitment to our mission—someone who will build on our strong foundations and help guide the organisation through its next chapter.

I warmly encourage you to consider applying for this role and to join a charity that is making a meaningful and lasting impact.

Simon Lewis OBE
Chairman
May 2026



About Us

What we do

Young Enterprise (YE) is the UK's leading youth charity, specialising in enterprise and financial education. Since our founding, we have supported 7.2 million young people with financial and enterprise opportunities, including 1.1 million who have started Young Enterprise businesses. As a founding member of Junior Achievement Worldwide (JAWW), YE is part of a global network spanning over 100 countries, united in the mission to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy.

We provide programmes, resources, and training that give young people the skills, confidence, and mindset to earn and manage money responsibly, be enterprising, and make a positive contribution to their communities. We also bring our youth expertise to influence policy, acting as secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Financial Education for Young People and working closely with various Government departments to advocate for systemic change.

Why we are needed

The UK faces a serious skills gap: many young people leave school without the skills they need to thrive in work and life. Young Enterprise's programmes address this by equipping young people with enterprise skills, financial literacy, and employability capabilities that prepare them for a rewarding future.

Transforming Futures Strategy – 2024-2030

Young Enterprise's *Transforming Futures* strategy sets out an ambitious vision to ensure that every young person, whatever their starting point, has the financial education, enterprise capability, and work readiness they need to succeed.

The strategy focuses on deepening impact where it is needed most, strengthening the quality, relevance, and accessibility of programmes, and harnessing partnerships to scale what works.

Central to this is our close engagement with government and other stakeholders, ensuring that the lived experience of young people helps shape policy and drive systemic change.

Transforming Futures positions Young Enterprise as both a leading delivery organisation and a powerful advocate for high-quality youth financial and enterprise education across the UK.

Where we operate

We operate in England, Scotland and Wales, and licence the delivery of Young Enterprise Programmes and services in Northern Ireland through Young Enterprise Northern Ireland and Gibraltar through Young Enterprise Gibraltar.

Young Enterprise is a founding member of the global organisation, JA Worldwide (JAWW).



Young Enterprise Chair

Role Purpose

The Chair of Young Enterprise will lead and inspire the Board of Trustees, acting as a strategic partner to the CEO and senior leadership, and as a champion and ambassador for the charity. We are looking for someone who can make introductions to senior decision makers and potential funders, help navigate relationships with policy makers, and support fundraising, advocacy, and public affairs at the highest level.

The Chair will play a pivotal role in helping Young Enterprise:

- Deliver the *Transforming Futures* strategy and deepen impact in financial education, enterprise, and work readiness.
- Strengthen relationships with funders, government, and other influential stakeholders.
- Ensure excellent governance, compliance, and financial sustainability.
- Promote the charity's values, mission, and reputation nationally and internationally.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Lead the development and approval of the charity's strategic vision and oversee delivery by the CEO and senior leadership.
- Promote innovation and partnership-working to enhance the charity's reach and effectiveness.
- Maintain alignment with the extended Junior Achievement network, of which the charity is a founding member.
- Use experience and networks to support the charity's engagement with government, funders, corporate partners, and national influencers.

Board Leadership & Governance

- Chair the Board of Trustees, ensuring high-performing, inclusive, and engaged governance.
- Promote and champion diversity, equity, and inclusion across the Board and senior leadership.
- Foster a culture of constructive challenge, collaboration, and strategic focus.
- Ensure the Board fulfils its responsibilities for governance, legal and regulatory compliance, and the charity's strategic objectives.
- Support effective succession planning for Trustees and Committee Chairs.
- Oversee the annual review of Board and Trustee effectiveness, and facilitate training and development where needed.

Ambassadorial Role

- Act as a visible and inspiring ambassador for Young Enterprise, representing the charity at events, in the media, and with key stakeholders and sharing and amplifying our work.
- Support fundraising efforts through introductions, network activation, and advocacy for the charity's programmes.
- Bring credibility and influence to support senior leadership in shaping relationships with potential funders, partners, and government stakeholders.

CEO & Senior Leadership Partnership

- Appraise the CEO annually and provide ongoing support and guidance.
- Work closely with the CEO to ensure Boards feedback is implemented effectively.
- . Act as a sounding board for the CEO on management issues.

Compliance & Risk

- Ensure the charity operates ethically, transparently, and in line with its governing document, charity law, and regulatory requirements.
- Safeguard financial stability and solvency, and ensure appropriate management of the charity's resources and property.

Person Specification

We are seeking a Chair who demonstrates:

Essential

- Passion for the mission of Young Enterprise and belief in the transformative power of financial education, enterprise, and work readiness.
- Significant leadership experience at board or executive level in charity, public, or corporate sectors.
- Strong strategic insight with the ability to translate ambition into effective governance and delivery.
- Excellent ambassadorial skills with credibility among funders, government, corporate partners, and other influential stakeholders.
- A well-developed network of contacts they are willing and able to activate for the charity's benefit.
- Commitment to high standards of governance and the Charity Governance Code.
- Ability to chair, facilitate, and inspire a high-performing, diverse board.
- Collaborative, sound judgment, tact, and diplomacy.
- Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults.

Desirable

- Experience in fundraising, public affairs, or policy advocacy.
- Familiarity with the education sector, youth development, or social impact organisations.

Commitment & Terms

- Attend and chair six Trustee board meetings per year (typically 3–4 hours, primarily London-based).
- Participate in site visits, events, and other Trustee responsibilities.
- Undertake relevant training and evaluation of Board performance as required.
- Anticipated time commitment: approximately 1-2 days per month.
- This is an unpaid role; reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.
- Normal appointment term: three years, with potential reappointment up to a maximum of six years.

Safeguarding

Young Enterprise takes safeguarding seriously and ensures all programmes, services, and roles are designed with the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults in mind. Trustees must undertake enhanced DBS checks and safeguarding training prior to starting and at regular intervals, and adhere to all relevant safeguarding policies.



How to apply

To apply for this role please provide the following documents:

- ◆ An up to date CV. Please provide a PDF document labelled 'CV' and your name and the role you are applying for.
- ◆ A supporting document. Please submit a PDF document (maximum 2 sides of A4) outlining why you are applying for this role, and your fit for the role based on the essential criteria set out in the person specification and role description. Please label this 'Supporting information' and your name.

Applications should be sent to jobs@y-e.org.uk

Please submit your application by 11:59pm on Sunday 21st June 2026.

Further Reading

The Young Enterprise [Annual Report & Accounts for the year ending July 2025](#)

The Young Enterprise [Transforming Futures Strategy](#)