



Version 1: 30/09/2024

## Appointment of Directors of Befriending Networks Ltd.

Befriending Networks Ltd is governed by a membership-led board of directors. The board can comprise of up to 10 directors, 6 as member directors, and 4 as appointed directors. The maximum term any director can serve is 5 consecutive years.

At each annual general meeting, member directors appointed by the board in the period since the last AGM must resign from office, alongside half of the remaining member directors. Those eligible may stand for re-election.

All appointed directors must resign at the AGM. Immediately after the AGM the board of directors may re-appoint or appoint directors to serve the board until the next AGM.

### Member Directors – Election

The following individuals will resign from the board of directors, under clauses 59 and 61(a) of the articles of association.

- Rita Chadha – Member: Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours
- Julia Weir – Member: Jewish Care

Both are eligible and seek election to the board of directors by the membership.

**Ordinary Resolution 1a** – Nomination of **Rita Chadha** to serve as a Member Director of Befriending Networks Ltd.

**Ordinary Resolution 1b** – Nomination of **Julia Weir** to serve as a Member Director of Befriending Networks Ltd.



## Member Directors – Re-election

The following individuals will resign from the board of directors, under clauses 59 and 61(b) of the articles of association.

- Emily Kenward – Member: Time to Talk Befriending
- Jayne Burnett – Member: Visiting Friends

Both are eligible and seek election to the board of directors by the membership.

**Ordinary Resolution 2a** – Nomination of **Emily Kenward** to serve as a Member Director of Befriending Networks Ltd.

**Ordinary Resolution 2b** – Nomination of **Jayne Burnett** to serve as a Member Director of Befriending Networks Ltd.

Remaining on the board as Member Trustees are Nikki Pattinson – Member: Carers Leeds, and Bonnie Bowhay – Member: Marie Curie.

## Appointed Directors

The following individuals will resign from their Appointed Director positions immediately following the AGM as set out in Clause 66 of the Articles of Association. They are eligible for re-appointment, and it is the view of the Member Directors that the following individuals be re-appointed to serve as company directors.

- Mike Niles
- Stuart Gray

The board notes and thanks the contribution of former Appointed Directors Peggy Winford (resigned 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024) and Clare Watson (resigned 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024).



## Election of Office Bearers

The following individuals are seeking election as Office Bearers of Befriending Networks to fulfil the roles of:

- Chairperson: Emily Kenward
- Vice-Chairperson (Interim Chairperson): Mike Niles
- Treasurer: Stuart Gray

## Director Biographies


### Member Directors

 <p><b>Rita Chadha</b> (Ordinary Resolution 1a).</p>	<p>Rita works for two befriending schemes specialising in supporting older people, Voluntary Action in Surrey and Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours in East London, who have been providing befriending support for nearly 80 years. Prior to her current role, Rita worked for a broad range of small local organisations and national charities. Between 2006 and 2017 she served as Chief Executive of the Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London, and during the pandemic she was CEO of the Small Charities Coalition.</p> <p>Rita specialises in supporting charities with governance, equity issues, fundraising and working with the public sector. She is a trustee of six other charities and also a serving local councillor. Rita joined the Board of Befriending Networks as a Member Director in April 2024.</p>
 <p><b>Julia Weir</b> (Ordinary Resolution 2b).</p>	<p>Julia has spent around 20 years working and volunteering in the social and healthcare sector within various settings including community centres, a home care service and helplines, having also experienced this area from administrative and quality assurance perspectives. She was delighted to be able to join the Befriending Service at Jewish Care in a paid capacity in 2019 where she is now the Befriending Coordinator and manages several members of staff. Julia joined the Board of Befriending Networks as a Member Director in April 2024.</p>



 <p><b>Emily Kenward</b> (Ordinary Resolution 2a).</p>	<p>Emily is the Founder and CEO of Time to Talk Befriending, a Sussex based charity, motivated to ensure that older people feel visible, valued, and connected in their community rather than invisible, forgotten and alone.</p> <p>Emily is a committed member of Befriending Networks. Emily joined the Board because she is keen to utilise her skills and experience for the good of the sector and raise the profile of befriending nationally.</p> <p>Emily has served as Chairperson since November 2023 and was previously Vice-Chair of Befriending Networks between November 2022 and 2023. She has been a Member Director since September 2021.</p> <p><i>Nominee for Chairperson</i></p>
 <p><b>Jayne Burnett</b> (Ordinary Resolution 2b)</p>	<p>Jayne has been the manager of the befriending charity Visiting Friends in Helensburgh since 2015 and is passionate about the benefits of befriending, volunteering and the difference simple kindnesses can make to a community.</p> <p>As a former nurse she is also interested in how we best deal with the complexity of physical and mental health issues often seen in referrals, and the challenges these can create for befriending services.</p> <p>Jayne takes an active and involved role in the board, with a particular interest in research. Jayne is a member of our Board Executive. She has been a Member Director since November 2022.</p>
 <p><b>Bonnie Bowhay</b></p>	<p>Bonnie has worked for Marie Curie since January 2018 in several different roles. She was involved in setting up Marie Curie's Check-in and Chat Befriending Service and later went on to coordinate the service and manage a large team of volunteers. Bonnie current role is Online Community Manager.</p> <p>Her passion has always been to support people, which is one of the reasons she wanted to work for Marie Curie. This can also be displayed from personal</p>



	<p>experience as a volunteer befriender for Community Connections.</p> <p>Co-opted in June 2023 and elected in November 2023, as a Member Director for Befriending Networks, Bonnie combines her professional expertise in volunteer management with my interest in supporting people, improving wellbeing, and easing loneliness and isolation. Bonnie holds a designated role on the board as safeguarding lead.</p>
 <p><b>Nikki Pattinson</b></p>	<p>Over the past 15 years, Nikki has worked in various roles within the charity sector supporting unpaid carers. She joined Carers Leeds in 2012 and has been a member of their leadership team since 2020. Nikki is responsible for managing a team of staff working hard to reduce the social isolation and loneliness many carers feel. Her role includes the management of two befriending projects.</p> <p>Nikki brings both a keen eye for detail and can see the big picture. She has experience of writing and reviewing policy, operational leadership on the GDPR, and is passionate about high quality consistent services. Alongside this she is an experienced fundraiser.</p> <p>Nikki has been a co-opted Member Trustee since June 2023 and was subsequently elected in November 2023 and serves on the Befriending Networks Board Executive.</p>





## Appointed Directors

 <p><b>Mike Niles</b></p>	<p>Mike is the former CEO and Founder of a befriending organisation, and the current CEO of Carers of West Lothian. He is passionate about the health and societal benefits brought about through befriending. After leaving the charity he founded he wants to volunteer time with Befriending Networks to offer experience to help other organisations to achieve maximum impact.</p> <p>In addition to his experience in befriending, Mike offers expertise in communication and marketing which was an identified need in a 2023 skills audit of our board. Mike was made an Appointed Director in September 2023.</p> <p>Nominee for Vice-Chairperson (Interim Chairperson)</p>
 <p><b>Stuart Gray</b></p>	<p>In 2017, Stuart founded Strathmore Community Rugby Trust with a vision to use rugby to help develop people and the communities we live in.</p> <p>He is committed to opportunities that bring people together to improve mental wellbeing, confidence, as well as their physical wellbeing by creating an inclusive and supportive environment.</p> <p>Stuart brings experience as a Chartered Management Accountant and a Chartered Manager – he is a Fellow with both organisations, and has extensive local authority experience, most recently in the education service providing a broad range of non-teaching support to schools.</p> <p>Stuart was made an Appointed Director in November 2023.</p> <p>Nominee for Treasurer</p>