

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is looking for its next President.

This is an exciting, high-profile leadership role that is central to the work of RCPCH. The President is the leader of the paediatrician profession in the UK, championing paediatrics and child health.

The President serves as the leader of the RCPCH's membership of over 25,000 paediatricians in the four nations of the UK and internationally and is the public face of the RCPCH. As the voice of the paediatric community, the President plays a major part in shaping and overseeing RCPCH strategy, working closely with Trustees (in particular, the Chair of Trustees), Officers, the Chief Executive Officer, Senior Leadership Team, and external stakeholders. The post is unremunerated and the post holder is accountable to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

ROLE SUMMARY

- Act as ambassador for the RCPCH and its members with government and other key external stakeholders
- Represent the RCPCH, its members, children and young people and child health across the UK and internationally
- As a Trustee of the RCPCH, take responsibility for the College's long-term success and financial sustainability
- Work with and support the Chair of Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer in their roles
- Chair the College Council, Executive Committee, Specialty Forum and Joint Surgical Liaison Committee
- Represent the RCPCH at the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
- Uphold the values, decisions and policies of the RCPCH and to be a role model to members and to child health more widely
- Work to further RCPCH's charitable aims, as set out in its Royal Charter:
 - advance the art and science of Paediatrics
 - raise the standard of medical care provided to children
 - educate and examine those concerned with the health of children
 - advance the education of the public (and in particular medical practitioners) in child health which means the protection of children, the prevention of illness and disease in children and safeguarding their optimal development

DUTIES

The duties of the President include:

- Serving as a member of the Board of Trustees (four meetings per year plus an awayday) with consequent legal responsibilities for the oversight of the RCPCH and the delivery of its Charitable Objects
- Chairing Council, the RCPCH representative body of members responsible for setting College strategy (four meetings per year)
- Chairing Executive Committee, which brings together senior College Officers and staff (approx. twelve meetings per year)
- Chairing Specialty Forum the body that serves as a liaison between the RCPCH and groups representing paediatric sub-specialties and special interest groups (three meetings per year)
- Chairing the Joint Surgical Liaison Committee (two meetings per year)
- Ensuring that the voices of children and young people are clearly heard, both within the College and in the wider health community
- Sitting as RCPCH representative on the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (4 meetings per year plus one policy day, monthly informal meetings, alternate monthly meetings with England's Chief Medical Officer)
- Sitting on other committees and ad hoc groups as needed
- Representing RCPCH in meetings with government ministers, leaders of other Royal Colleges, and other organisations in the UK and internationally
- Meeting regularly with the Chief Executive Officer, as well as taking part in tripartite meetings with them and the Chair of Trustees
- Meeting Senior Officers and Divisional Leads on a regular basis (as mutually agreed)
- Appraising Senior Officers (not including Chair of Trainees Committee) and Global Officer on an annual basis
- Identifying future talent in the profession to undertake volunteer roles within the College, and leading/participating in the selection process for a number of key leadership positions

The President has a unique opportunity to represent the RCPCH's members to help shape policy and the delivery of child health in the UK.

This appointment comes at a critical time for RCPCH, as the context in which it operates continues to evolve. There are sustained pressures on child health services, with demand for care increasing and services facing significant capacity and workforce challenges. At the same time, there is a growing recognition of the need to prioritise children and young people within health policy and planning, ensuring their needs are fully reflected across the healthcare system.

The RCPCH is also advancing its strategic priorities, including strengthening and supporting the paediatric workforce, influencing policy to place child health at the centre of decision-making, and improving health outcomes through research, standards and innovation. Alongside this, RCPCH continues to maintain its international impact and engage an increasingly diverse membership, working collaboratively to improve child health globally

The RCPCH's current strategy runs from 2024 to 2027. The new President will play a key role in overseeing the delivery of the next strategy.

They will also be joining at an important point in the College's future direction of travel by working closely with the Chair of Trustees and Chief Executive Officer to help shape and

transition into the next strategic phase beyond 2027, ensuring continuity of vision and priorities across their term of office.

ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with the Royal Charter, Bye-laws and Regulations, applicants must be Fellows of the RCPCH whose primary postal address is in the UK or Republic of Ireland. If the registered address is in the Republic of Ireland, the applicant must be a full paying RCPCH Fellow.

Candidates must be nominated by six Ordinary Members or Fellows whose primary postal address registered with the RCPCH is in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

The RCPCH wants to represent all the communities we serve and are dedicated to creating an inclusive working environment. The College is particularly keen to receive applications from those who belong to an underrepresented group as defined in the Equality Act 2010, including age, disability, sex, race, religion or belief, gender reassignment, married or in a civil partnership, pregnancy/parental leave or sexual orientation.

The College is a disability confident leader. Please let us know if you require any reasonable adjustments or accommodations as a result of a disability, impairment or health condition – either for the election process, or for service as President if elected.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Essential

- Fellow of the RCPCH, with appropriate revalidation in place whose primary postal address registered with the College is in the UK or the Republic of Ireland.
- In “good standing” with RCPCH, in accordance with the definition at [good standing requirements](#); candidates who are currently suspended from practice will not be barred from standing, but will be required to disclose this as part of their application.

As this is an elected post, RCPCH cannot impose requirements on candidates beyond the eligibility requirements described above. However, it is suggested that in order to undertake the role successfully, candidates would benefit from having the skills and experience set out below.

- A passion for paediatrics and child health and wanting to improve outcomes for members and children and young people
- Active in clinical practice with a sound understanding of paediatrics and child health issues across the UK
- A national profile with the ability to influence at a senior level nationally and internationally
- An understanding of, and commitment to the RCPCH, its purpose and its work
- Working knowledge and understanding of RCPCH structure and functions
- Experience of education, training, science and research, and/or professional standards and career development through a senior leadership role
- Ability to influence at a senior level nationally and internationally
- Experienced and inspirational leader, including leadership of significant change
- An understanding organisational performance and delivery
- Excellent verbal and written communicator, including public speaking and media experience

- Ability to work collaboratively as a member of a leadership team, as well as build and manage teams to deliver challenging objectives within limited resources
- Basic financial literacy with the ability and confidence to understand and interrogate financial information
- Well-organised, including capacity to respond promptly to issues where necessary
- Enthusiasm for technology and its use in improving child health
- Ability to manage controversy and challenge tactfully
- Awareness of how the world is changing politically, economically and socially
- Integrity and commitment to act in the best interests of the RCPCH

In addition, candidates will be expected to exemplify RCPCH values:

1. **Include** – We work collaboratively, valuing diverse perspectives and actively seeking the voices of infants, children and young people to shape our work.
2. **Influence** – We use our expertise and collective voice to advocate for improvements in child health and to positively influence policy and practice.
3. **Innovate** – We embrace new ideas, approaches and technologies, adapting to change and pursuing creative solutions to improve outcomes.
4. **Inspire** – We lead with integrity, supporting and developing others, and fostering a culture where contributions are recognised and people are encouraged to achieve their best.

On election candidates, will be required to sign the Code of Conduct for RCPCH Trustees (copy available on request).

TIME COMMITMENT

The elected candidate will need to devote a substantial amount of time to the role. The candidate should expect that this will be typically no less than three days per week. There are additional out-of-hours commitments for travel and meetings. Candidates should ensure their employers are supportive, prior to putting their name forward. The successful candidate will be supported by RCPCH staff, including the Chief Executive Officer, Senior Leadership Team, and an Executive Assistant based at the RCPCH offices in London.

The 2027 College committee meeting dates are currently being finalised. If you would like a copy of the proposed schedule, please contact governance@rcpch.ac.uk.

All meetings are currently scheduled to take place at the RCPCH's headquarters in London, with the option to participate remotely via MS Teams.

PROCESS

Applications for roles should be submitted electronically no later than 17:00, 19 October 2026. We will ask you to include a statement of up to 500 words outlining the relevant experience and reasons for applying to the post. This statement will be shared with voters.

When undertaking a role at RCPCH all role holders must agree to respect and uphold the charitable objects, vision, and values of the RCPCH and uphold the [code of conduct](#) which embodies of the values that the RCPCH holds the breaking of which could lead to sanction. Core to RCPCH's values is the exemplary behaviour of its members, both as professionals and also as individuals.

Appointed candidates will be asked to [register their interests](#). This is to ensure that personal circumstances that might compromise a volunteer's ability to be seen as acting correctly are properly disclosed.

The role holder must be committed to following the College's safer working practices guidelines when working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, with the role holder required to comply with the College's Safeguarding policy. Appointed candidates must also have undertaken Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training within the last three years.

The RCPCH wants to represent all the communities we serve. Appointment will be made solely on merit. However, the College is particularly keen to receive applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates, and/or candidates with a disability who are currently under-represented at this level of the organisation. To ensure our records for candidates are up to date, we ask that you complete our diversity monitoring form.

Members can also receive support to cover the costs of caring responsibilities, where these responsibilities would otherwise prevent them from undertaking voluntary work for the College, as per the [removing barriers](#) fund. Claims must be submitted using the appropriate form and the College should be made aware of these requests at least a month in advance. For further information please contact edi@rcpch.ac.uk.

Personal information about unsuccessful candidates will be held for six months after the position has been filled, it will then be securely destroyed. Personal information about successful candidates will be retained on their membership file. The information contained in this will be kept secure and will only be used for purposes directly relevant to that person's responsibilities as a committee member. Please also refer to the [membership privacy notice](#) which explains how we will use the data we collect from you.

ELECTION

If more than one application is received, a vote by ballot will be held after the close of applications. Those eligible to receive voting information will be Fellows, Senior Fellows, Ordinary Members, Senior Members, Associate Members, Junior Members and Honorary Fellows (bye-law 7(i)).

In addition to the 500-word written statement, candidates will be invited to further communicate their proposals to voters via – (our Governance team will contact you once the application process is closed with further details):

- A video statement, of a length and format to be notified
- A letter written to RCPCH &Us (no more than 300 words) about why children and young people are central to the work of the College

The voting process will take place between 16 November and 14 December 2026. **The successful candidate will be announced by 16 December 2026.** The election will be run under the Regulations approved by the Board of Trustees, which may be inspected on the RCPCH website or requested from the Chief Executive Officer's office.

The successful candidate will take office as President at the close of the RCPCH AGM in May 2027 and will demit office at the third AGM following that, in spring 2030.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact the current President Professor Steve Turner to discuss the job content and to ensure that they are fully apprised of the details of the role. The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Joanne Shaw, and the Chief Executive Officer, Ian Parrett, are also happy to discuss the role and the process. Candidates wishing to contact these individuals may do so by emailing Belinda Grantham-Hill (belinda.granthamhill@rcpch.ac.uk). Any queries about the election process or eligibility should be addressed to the Governance team (governance@rcpch.ac.uk).

Ian Parrett, Chief Executive Officer
September 2026