

# Recruitment pack



**Chair of Trustees**  
**Closing Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May**



# Dear candidate

Thank you for your interest in becoming Chair of Target Ovarian Cancer.

When I founded the Charity, it was driven by a simple belief: that women affected by ovarian cancer deserved better; better awareness, earlier diagnosis, more effective treatment, and a stronger voice.

Since then, the organisation has grown into a respected national charity, bringing together patients, clinicians, researchers and partners to drive meaningful change. I am incredibly proud of how far it has come, and of the role it now plays within the UK's ovarian cancer landscape.

Today, Target Ovarian Cancer is led by a strong executive team and a thoughtful, committed Board, and is entering an important new phase of its development.

We are at a pivotal moment.

There is real momentum across the health system, with the National Cancer Plan and the renewed focus on the Women's Health Strategy creating a significant opportunity to influence change at scale. At the same time, our organisation has developed a clear and ambitious strategy, focused on delivering credible, measurable impact, particularly in improving early diagnosis, addressing inequalities and ensuring more women are connected to support and expert information as and when they need it.

Alongside this ambition sits a clear focus on building long-term financial sustainability, ensuring the organisation is resilient, well-governed and able to deliver lasting change.

The next Chair will play a critical role in supporting this.

We are looking for someone who can bring strategic clarity, sound judgement and constructive challenge, while working in close partnership with the CEO and Board to guide the organisation through this next phase.

This is an opportunity to lead a Board that is ambitious for the future, committed to good governance, and focused on supporting an organisation that continues to evolve, grow and increase its impact.

For me, as Founder and Trustee, it is important that Target Ovarian Cancer continues to look forward, building on its foundations while responding to the opportunities ahead.

I am excited about what comes next, and about the role a new Chair can play in helping shape that future.

If you are motivated by the opportunity to contribute at this level, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Joanna Barker MBE  
**Founder and Trustee**



Thank you for your interest in becoming Chair of Target Ovarian Cancer.

As Chief Executive, I see this as a defining appointment for the organisation.

We have a clear strategy and a strong sense of the difference we want to make, now the focus is on delivery. That means making good decisions, maintaining momentum, and ensuring we are building an organisation that is both impactful and financially sustainable for the long term.

The Chair will play a critical role in helping us do that well.

I am looking for someone who can be a true partner, someone who brings perspective, sound judgement and constructive challenge, and who can help create clarity and focus as we navigate a complex and ambitious agenda.

This role also has an important external dimension.

The Chair will represent the charity with senior donors and supporters, as well as across government, the NHS, academia and other key stakeholders. Your presence and credibility will help us build confidence, open doors and strengthen the relationships that underpin both our impact and our sustainability.

You would be joining a Board that is engaged and thoughtful, and a team that is committed to delivering meaningful change for women affected by ovarian cancer.

For the right person, this is an opportunity to contribute at a moment where the organisation is clear on its direction and focused on what it will take to deliver.

If that resonates with you, I would be delighted to hear from you.

*Catherine Harris*

**Chief Executive Officer**



At Target Ovarian Cancer, our mission is to identify and target the biggest challenges in ovarian cancer so that it doesn't limit life.

Ovarian cancer remains one of the most serious and least recognised cancers affecting women. Too many women are diagnosed late, face unequal access to treatment, or do not receive the information and support they need. We exist to change that.

We play an important role in the UK's ovarian cancer landscape, working to improve outcomes and transform the experience of everyone affected by ovarian cancer.

We do this by combining evidence, partnership and influence to drive progress where it is needed most.

Our new strategy marks an ambitious next phase for the organisation. We are focused on accelerating change in the areas where women with ovarian cancer face the greatest barriers; from earlier and faster diagnosis, to better treatment pathways, stronger support, greater awareness, and a louder national voice for those affected.

We believe lasting change happens when we work across the whole system. That is why we bring together patients, clinicians, researchers, policymakers, supporters and partners to turn insight into action and ambition into impact.

Alongside our external mission, we are committed to building a modern, inclusive and high-performing organisation with the people, culture, systems and financial strength needed to deliver sustainable impact for the long term.

This is an exciting moment to join us. We have a clear sense of purpose, a fresh strategic direction, and a determination to make an even greater difference in the years ahead.



# What you need to know about the role

## Role Summary

Target Ovarian Cancer is seeking a new Chair at a pivotal and high stakes moment in its development.

With a newly defined strategy focused on delivering credible, measurable impact for women affected by ovarian cancer, the organisation is entering a critical phase of execution. Over the next five years, priorities will include improving earlier diagnosis, reducing inequalities in outcomes, widening access to treatment and support, and building a stronger, more influential voice across the health system.

Alongside this ambition, financial sustainability and long-term organisational resilience are central to success. The Chair will play a vital role in guiding the organisation to make disciplined, strategically aligned decisions that ensure both impact and stability.

This is not a ceremonial role. The Chair will work in close partnership with the CEO, Board and executive team to provide clarity, challenge and support, helping to navigate a complex and opportunity-rich environment. They will also act as an ambassador for the organisation, strengthening external credibility and helping to build the relationships that underpin impact, influence and funding.

The successful candidate will lead a committed and engaged Board, ensuring strong governance while enabling the organisation to deliver its strategy with focus and confidence during a defining period.

## Board Composition

Sonya Branch, NED – Outgoing Chair of Trustees

Raj Bhogaita, CFO Nurture Group – Outgoing Treasurer

Joanna Barker MBE

Jo Paice, Clinics Director at Bupa Health Clinics

Angie Ma, Co-Founder of Faculty AI

Saswati Saha Mitra – Senior Director of Insights, Superbet



## Role Specification

### Governance & Board Leadership

- Lead and manage the Board of Trustees, ensuring it operates effectively, inclusively and with strong engagement
- Ensure the highest standards of governance, compliance and accountability in line with Charity Commission requirements
- Maintain a clear distinction between governance and executive responsibility, enabling the Board to focus on strategic oversight rather than operational delivery
- Build a high-performing, diverse Board with the right balance of skills, experience and perspectives
- Foster a culture of trust, openness and constructive challenge across the Board and between the Board and executive team
- Lead on Board effectiveness, including Trustee recruitment, succession planning and evaluation

### Strategy, Performance & Sustainability

- Guide the Board and executive team in delivering the organisation's strategy, with a clear focus on measurable impact and outcomes
- Support ambitious but disciplined decision-making, balancing opportunity with risk and long-term sustainability
- Ensure appropriate oversight of financial performance, organisational resilience and risk management
- Bring a commercial and strategic mindset to discussions on growth, funding models and resource allocation
- Help the organisation prioritise effectively in a high-demand, resource-constrained environment



### CEO Partnership & Executive Support

- Act as a trusted partner to the CEO, providing support, perspective and constructive challenge
- Help create clarity, confidence and focus as the organisation navigates a complex strategic agenda
- Maintain a strong, transparent and effective Chair–CEO relationship, underpinned by mutual respect and clear boundaries
- Support the CEO’s performance and development, including leading annual appraisal and objective setting
- Ensure the executive team is appropriately supported while maintaining accountability

### External Representation & Advocacy

- Act as an ambassador for Target Ovarian Cancer, enhancing its profile and reputation externally
- Build credibility with and open doors to senior stakeholders across government, the NHS, academia, research, and funding communities
- Support and, where appropriate, lead engagement with key partners, donors and influencers
- Play an active role in fundraising and relationship building, helping to strengthen income streams and long-term sustainability

### Culture & Values

- Champion an inclusive, collaborative and high-performing culture at Board level
- Support the organisation’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, both internally and in delivery of its mission
- Ensure the organisation remains focused on its purpose and the needs of women affected by ovarian cancer



## Person Specification

### Experience & Expertise

- A senior and highly credible leader with a strong professional reputation in their field
- Proven experience operating at Board or equivalent level, with a clear understanding of governance and strategic oversight
- Strong track record of contributing to or leading organisations through periods of growth, change or transformation
- Experience of financial oversight and an understanding of organisational sustainability and funding models
- Commercially minded, with the ability to balance ambition with disciplined execution

### Leadership & Personal Style

- Strategically strong, with the ability to see the bigger picture while maintaining focus on delivery and outcomes
- Sound judgement and decision-making capability, particularly in complex or high-stakes environments
- Able to provide constructive challenge while remaining supportive, collaborative and solutions-focused
- Demonstrates gravitas and credibility, with the presence to represent the organisation at senior levels
- Emotionally intelligent, collegiate and able to build strong, trusting relationships

### External Impact

- Comfortable and effective acting as a public-facing ambassador
- Ability to build relationships and influence across a wide range of stakeholders
- Willing and able to actively support fundraising, partnerships and external engagement



- Network or credibility that helps open doors and build confidence in the organisation

### **Working Style & Commitment**

- Clear understanding of the distinction between governance and operations, and able to maintain appropriate boundaries
- Willingness to invest the time, energy and headspace required to engage meaningfully with the organisation
- Strong alignment with the mission and purpose of Target Ovarian Cancer
- Commitment to working in close partnership with the CEO and Board during a critically important period



## Length of Service

The current Chair, Sonya Branch, will be stepping down in September 2026 at the end of her term.

We anticipate confirming the new Chair over summer 2026, allowing for a short handover period to ensure continuity and a smooth transition.

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of three years, with the option to serve up to a maximum of nine years in total.

## Time commitment

The Chair role requires a meaningful but manageable time commitment, with flexibility to respond to key moments in the organisation's calendar.

The core commitment includes:

- Attendance at four Board meetings per year
- Attendance at four Finance Committee meetings per year (optional, depending on the Chair's preference and areas of focus)
- Regular meetings with the Chief Executive (typically monthly)

In addition, the Chair is expected to:

- Attend key organisational events where appropriate
- Support a small number of major funding conversations and stakeholder meetings each year
- Be available for ad hoc discussions or decisions as required

Overall, we anticipate an average commitment of approximately 1–2 days per month, with some variation depending on organisational priorities and key moments in the year.

We are looking for someone who has the capacity and flexibility to be actively engaged, particularly during this important phase of strategy delivery.



# How to apply

Please send across the following to [targetovariancancer@thembsgroup.co.uk](mailto:targetovariancancer@thembsgroup.co.uk) by midday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

- A CV (maximum 2 pages)
- A short supporting statement (maximum 250 words per question) addressing:
- What specifically attracts you to joining the Board of Target Ovarian Cancer at this point in its development, and where do you think you could add most value?
- Looking ahead 3–5 years, what do you see as a key strategic opportunity or challenge for the organisation, based on what you know so far, and why?

We are particularly interested in concise, specific responses that reflect your own perspective and judgement.

## Equity, diversity and inclusion

At Target Ovarian Cancer, we recognise that ovarian cancer outcomes and experiences are not equal. Inequalities exist in diagnosis, access to treatment and support, and we are committed to addressing these through our work.

We believe that diversity of perspective strengthens decision-making and leads to better outcomes. We are therefore committed to building a Board that reflects a broad range of backgrounds, experiences and viewpoints.

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds, particularly those currently underrepresented at senior levels, including people from Black, Asian and other minoritised ethnic communities, disabled and neurodivergent people, and those with lived experience of ovarian cancer.

We are committed to ensuring our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible. If you require any adjustments at any stage, please let us know.



## Contact Information

The MBS Group is proud to be partnering with **Target Ovarian Cancer**, on this crucial appointment. For further information please contact us, using the details listed below.

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