

10 Ways to Get Involved in

PUBLIC SERVICE

— **IN THE UK** —



By Bukky Okunade

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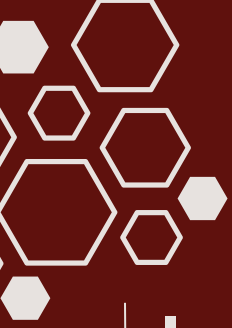
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Introduction

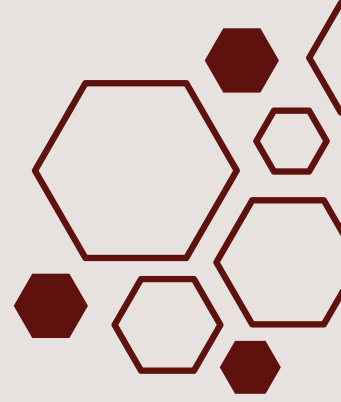
Public service is one of the most meaningful ways to contribute to society. Many people feel a strong desire to make a difference, yet they are often unsure where to begin.

The truth is that public service is not limited to political office. There are many practical and accessible ways to serve your community, influence decisions, and contribute to national life.

Whether you are early in your career, established in your profession, or exploring new purpose later in life, there is a place for you in public service.

This guide introduces ten practical ways you can begin your journey. Each option offers a different pathway to making an impact, allowing you to contribute in a way that aligns with your skills, experience, and interests.

01 | Serve as a School Governor



What the role is

School governors support the leadership and strategic direction of schools.

Why it matters

Governors play a key role in improving education standards and outcomes for young people.

What you will gain

You gain experience in decision-making, leadership, and working with senior teams.

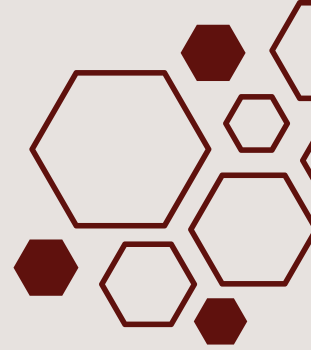
How to get started

Schools regularly seek volunteers from a wide range of professional and personal backgrounds.

Helpful link

For more information, visit *Governors for Schools* and search *Become a school governor*.

02 | **Serve on a Local Council Committee as an Independent Member**



What the role is

Independent members take part in council committees and panels, bringing their experience to local decisions.

Why it matters

These committees help shape decisions on housing, planning, finance, and community services.

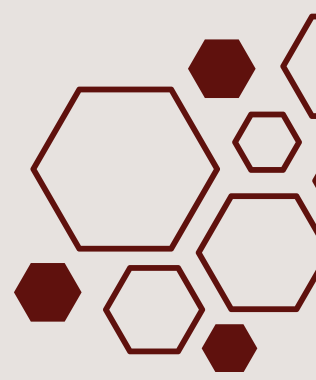
What you will gain

You gain insight into how local decisions are made and how policies are shaped.

How to get started

Visit your local council website and search for independent member, co-opted roles, or panel Opportunities.

03 | Become a Charity Trustee



What the role is

Charity trustees help guide organisations and make sure they are well run.

Why it matters

They help ensure charities stay focused, effective, and well run.

What you will gain

You build leadership experience and contribute to meaningful causes.

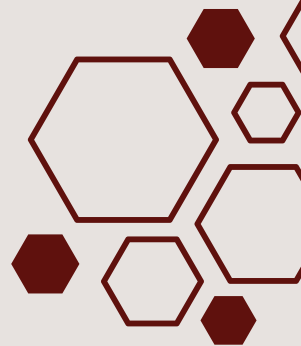
How to get started

Search for trustee roles based on your skills and interests.

Helpful link

Visit *Reach Volunteering* and search *Trustee roles*.

04 | Volunteer with Community Organisations



What the role is

Volunteers support local organisations delivering services and community projects.

Why it matters

This work helps improve lives and strengthen local communities.

What you will gain

You gain practical experience and build connections within your community.

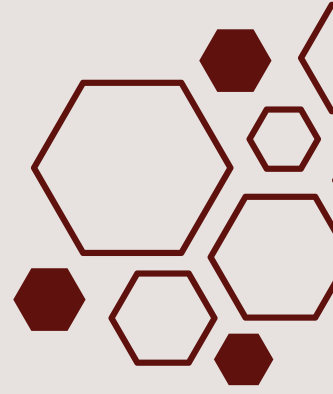
How to get started

Look for opportunities through local organisations or national platforms.

Helpful link

Visit [NCVO \(National Council for Voluntary Organisations\)](#) to explore guidance on volunteering.

05 | Become a Magistrate



What the role is

Magistrates are members of the judiciary who help decide cases in local courts.

Why it matters

They help ensure fair and balanced justice.

What you will gain

You gain experience in decision-making, responsibility, and public service within the justice system.

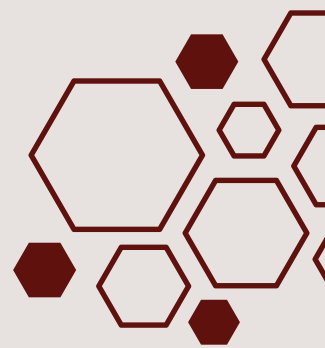
How to get started

You can apply even without a legal background.

Helpful link

Visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and search *Become a magistrate*

06 | **Serve on Public Boards as a Lay Member**



What the role is

Public bodies appoint lay members to boards and advisory groups.

Why it matters

They help ensure decisions reflect the needs and views of the public.

What you will gain

You gain experience in leadership, strategy, and public decision-making.

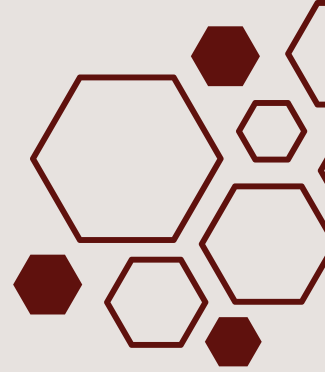
How to get started

Search for public appointments and board opportunities.

Helpful link

Visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and search *Public appointments*

07 | Join a Patient Participation Group



What the role is

Patient groups work with GP practices to improve services.

Why it matters

They help improve how healthcare services are delivered.

What you will gain

You gain experience in representing community views and contributing to service improvement.

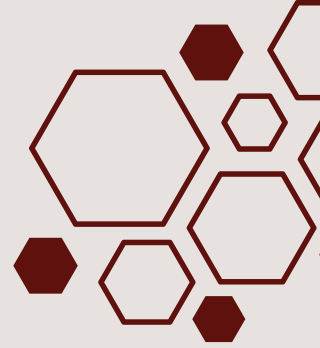
How to get started

Ask your GP practice if they have a participation group.

Helpful link

Visit the NHS website and search *Patient Participation Group*

08 | Join a Police Advisory Group



What the role is

Advisory groups work with local police to share community views and feedback.

Why it matters

They help improve trust, communication, and local policing.

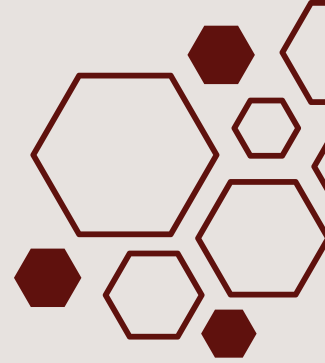
What you will gain

You gain experience in community representation and working with public services.

How to get started

Check your local police force website for advisory groups opportunities.

09 | Take Part in Public Consultations



What the role is

Government and councils invite the public to give views on policies.

Why it matters

Public input helps shape decisions and future plans.

What you will gain

You gain a voice in decisions and a better understanding of how policies are developed.

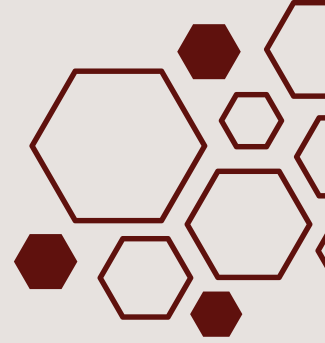
How to get started

Take part through official government platforms.

Helpful link

Visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and search Consultations

10 | Become a Housing Association Board Member



What the role is

Board members help guide housing associations and support how they are run.

Why it matters

They play an important role in housing standards and supporting local communities.

What you will gain

You gain experience in leadership, decision-making, and community impact.

How to get started

Look for board or committee roles on housing association websites or recruitment platforms.

Helpful link

For more information, visit [National Housing Federation](#) and search Board member roles

About the Author

Bukky Okunade is a public service coach, author, and speaker with a passion for helping individuals step into meaningful roles in their communities.

She supports people who want to contribute, lead, and make a difference through practical guidance and clear pathways *into public service*.

Her work focuses on helping individuals build *confidence*, gain *experience*, and position themselves *for influence in public and civic life*.

Ready to Go Further?

If you are considering stepping into public roles and building influence, explore:

The Act of Service:

Your Guide to Public Roles and Becoming Influential in the UK

This book provides deeper guidance, practical steps, and real insight into how to move forward with confidence.

Explore the Guide to Public Roles Series

- How to Become a School Governor in the UK
- And more titles

For more resources and guidance, visit:

www.findafresh.com

Helping you take your first step into public service
