



Girls' Brigade England & Wales Network Chair (2021 to 2024)

Nomination and election information

This pack is designed to provide a basis of information and insight into the role of The Girls' Brigade England & Wales Network Chair (GBEW). We hope that it provides those considering nomination to the role (whether as a nominator or nominee) with a useful foundation on which to base exploration of God's leading in the election of a new Chair for the GBEW Network.

In addition to this material, further information can be obtained as follows:

- General information about GBEW via the Girls' Brigade Ministries' website (www.girlsbrigadeministries.org.uk)
- Informal discussion regarding the role of Chair via the Girls' Brigade Ministries' Director (director@gb-ministries.org or **01246 582322**)
- General information regarding trusteeship via the Charity Commission (www.charitycommission.gov.uk).

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1. An overview of The Girls' Brigade England & Wales Network (GBEW)

GB partners with the Church to provide fun, relevant, relational groups where (primarily) girls and young women aged four to 30 can explore and engage with Christian faith, develop life skills and enjoy a nurturing environment. These groups are varied in style and setting in order to be relevant to the needs of the local area and the vision aims of the local church, but have commonalities that identify them as Girls' Brigade:

- A shared aim: to help (primarily) girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life
- A holistic, bespoke programme, support resources and awards scheme
- Volunteer leadership (female and male), trained by Girls' Brigade and appointed by the local church
- A uniform
- Membership through subscription.

Additionally, GB England & Wales members are members of a large worldwide family, known simply as The Girls' Brigade. As such England and Wales members are involved in activities, events and the International Council of The Girls' Brigade.

Our roots

GB in England and Wales began at the turn of the 20th century, in Victorian Britain. Sustainable, local, relational evangelism is the heart of GB and is a hallmark of GB and, over the years, local Christian women have responded to the need of girls and young women in their streets. This has, in turn, led to hundreds of thousands of girls and women coming to personal Christian faith as well as developing in confidence and skills, and being able to be themselves among their peers in an ever-changing world.

Of course though, GBEW has changed and developed since those early days, responding to cultural and faith changes within this country – and development continues to be ever before us.

GB in 2021

Our desire is to be effective in serving the 21st century Church as it seeks to offer the gospel of Christ in an increasingly un-churched country.

GB Ministries, of which GBEW is a part, has set four mission goals to focus achievement of the mission on turning up the volume of hope amongst this generation:

1. **Facilitating local community based groups for (primarily) girls and young women**
– growing and sustaining local structured (uniformed) activity groups in local

communities that are holistic, challenging and fun. They will intentionally enable 4-30 year olds with opportunities to develop their gifts and skills and to discover and personally engage with the Christian faith.

2. **Empowering and discipling** this generation to follow Christ through provision of positive online media for girls and enabling the personal development of women of integrity, influence and faith.
3. **Equipping Church** – equipping children and adults to engage in contextually-relevant mission through providing training, resources, and consultancy for volunteers, individuals and churches in faith-sharing, contemporary Christian mission and leadership.
4. **Being a good news advocate for girls and women**– sharing hopeful stories and engaging in hope-filled social action and communicating with Church, girls and leaders on key findings in order to facilitate effective Christian mission amongst this girl generation.

Where we are

GBEW is actively serving the church as missionary outreach with over 400 groups.

- We provide a great local basis for churches to reach into their un-churched communities – by providing regular activity groups for children and young people to attend.
- The structure of the GBEW Network provides a workable and sustainable pattern of activity and discovery (primarily) for girls aged four plus.
- Our leadership training is accessible to girls and adults (14+).
- Our pattern of evangelistic and fun events provides regular opportunity for girls and leaders to be spurred on in personal faith.
- Children and young people have real opportunities in GBEW to learn to follow Christ, to use their skills, to lead others and to 'have a go'.

GB now provides resources, awards, programme and leadership for four age-specific membership groups:

- **n:vestigat**e (4-8s)
- **n:gag**e (7-11s)
- **n:count**a (10-14s)
- **n:spire** (13-18s).

In addition, GB England & Wales has progressive leadership training for 14-18s and 18+, called **n:fluence** and a uniform that provides a strong identity and reflects a modern vibrant organisation for young people.

The past 12 months have been challenging for the GBEW network of local groups, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but they have continued to engage with innovative ways with the young people they serve, continuing to bring hope to this current generation.

Where we're going

GBEW is actively seeking to develop more opportunities for children and young people to hear of, and to follow, Jesus Christ. This commitment to serve the Church in mission requires us to remain true to our calling, yet flexible in our methodologies, style and content.

As England and Wales moves out of current restrictions, imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be key for GBEW to rebuild connections with children and young people as face-to-face activities are allowed. A period of growth and rebuild will be needed both in re-engaging with young people but also in seeking new volunteers to support the work of local groups.

Key to this will be supporting groups with ideas for fundraising, recruitment and promotional activities, as well as providing support and equipping our volunteer leaders who are in front-line mission in churches all around England and Wales.

Provision of online and digital resources will be required to enable engagement with young people and potential leaders. This will include continued development of The Esther Collective Podcast, an online community for 18-30s women, and koko, our online blog/vlog for teenage girls, and continuing to develop the online skills of our volunteers.

2. The Chair

The GBEW Network Chair is a key volunteer within the leadership team of GB England & Wales, and, by right of role, within the GB Ministries network, providing wide-ranging oversight of our mission.

The appointment is made via election, and the person in post will be involved at all levels of the charity; from GBEW Network Council and Executive, to representation at local and national events. In this s/he will be assisted by other Office Bearers, Network Executive Members and GBM Trustees, yet they will carry responsibility for the leadership of the England & Wales Network and its members.

Together with the Deputy Chair and our team of Office Bearers, the Chair is responsible to ensure Godly, prudent and strategic leadership for the GBEW Network.

Girls' Brigade Ministries, the operating name of Girls' Brigade England & Wales is a registered charity, and a company limited by guarantee, and the GBEW Network Chair will also be a member of the GBM Trustee Board with responsibilities to ensure that it fulfils its legal and financial responsibilities in the governance of the charity.

A key distinctive of the role is the close working relationship that must exist between the Chair and Girls' Brigade Ministries' Director (chief executive) whereby the Chair supports this senior staff member through practical and prayer support as s/he works to achieve the aims of the GBEW Network.

The role

The role of Chair is varied and includes a commitment to:

- Being willing to devote time and leadership to the GBEW Network, its people and aims
- Understanding and accepting the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship including being a member of Board Committees
- To act as an ambassador for the Network and to represent the views of the Network Executive Members to the Board of GB Ministries and other organisations
- Have a broad overview of the objects, organisational structure and life of GB Ministries and the GBEW Network Executive
- Chair meetings including the GBEW Network Executive and GBEW Network Council
- Work in partnership with the GBM Director, staff team and Network Executive members
- Be aware of, and participate in, England and Wales' relationship within the world-wide GB family
- Supervise and appraise the work of the GBM Director in conjunction with the Chair of the GB Ministries' Board of Trustees
- Contribute personal gifts and skills to the fulfilment of GBEW's aim.

The person

The GBEW Network Executive, staff and members of GBEW look to the Chair to be someone who has:

- Personal and ongoing commitment to Christian faith
- Commitment to the vision and aims of GB
- Proven ability to chair meetings
- Strong communication skills and the ability to create and maintain effective relationships with staff and volunteers
- Ability to enable strategic direction
- Willingness/capacity to devote time and effort to the charity.

GBEW is keen to encourage the elected person(s) to lead by 'being themselves' and is willing to consider a job share given the wide ranging duties of the role.

Experience tells us that in fulfilling this role various qualities will be needed in different measure and at various times.

As our Chair we'd seek that you are:

- Seeking, serving and following Jesus Christ
- Approachable
- A leader
- A clear communicator
- Strategically aware and able
- Aware of business issues
- Of sound, independent, judgement
- Open and accountable
- Able to relate to a wide variety of people
- Able to inspire confidence
- A person of integrity.

Example diary for Chair

Each Chair is different - in gifting, available time and, of course, areas of specific interest. As such the diary has both a routine and a fluidity to it, combining the following:

- A framework of meetings to chair/attend each year
- A framework of Board committee meetings dependent upon skills and giftings
- Attendance (working with the Office Bearers team) at various national and local events around the country (and possibly UK/overseas)
- Involvement in particular projects/work groups
- Regular communication with the GBM Director, GBM Trustee Board Chair and staff team
- Pastoral involvement with leaders/churches/parents, as needed.

N.B.: See the diary sheets appendix for an example of the 2021 framework.

3. Organisational information

Structure

Girls' Brigade Ministries, the operating name of Girls' Brigade England & Wales, is a registered charity, and a company limited by guarantee. The Board has established a Committee to be known as the Girls' Brigade England & Wales Network.

The role and objectives of the GB England & Wales Network ("the Network") is to:

- Work closely with local churches to provide fun, meaningful, and life-enhancing activities that enable (primarily) girls and women to explore Christian faith and develop life and leadership skills;
- Form local, age-specific Girls' Brigade groups to enable this style of children's and youth/young adult work to be organised and thrive; and
- Train, commission and resource volunteers ready for their appointment by the local church to establish Girls' Brigade groups as part of church mission in the community.

This work is usually focused within England and Wales, and the local groups operate within a code of good practice (set out within the document known as the GB Handbook) established and monitored by the Executive Committee of the Network and published across the Network from time to time.

A. GBEW Council purpose:

The Council is the representative body of the Network. The Council meets together periodically each year for fellowship, training and discussion regarding the mission of the Network.

The Council shall be a forum to address significant matters of concern to the life and purpose of the local community groups (uniformed) work of GB Ministries. The Council shall appoint a Network Executive Committee to manage and develop the mission and practice of the Network in fulfilment of the aims and purpose and in accordance with the Articles of Association of GB Ministries.

B. The GBEW Network Executive

The GBEW Network Executive (max.24 members) is elected by the Network Council to govern the charity.

The Network Executive members are drawn from three sources:

- a. Up to 10 regional representatives elected by the Council
- b. Up to 14 other persons, including the Honorary Treasurer, which shall be made up of a mix of Council Members and persons who are independent from the Charity and GBEW. At least four of those elected must be under 30 years of age (at the point of election).

4. Election information

Eligibility for nomination and election

The GBEW Network Executive Chair:

- May be nominated from within GBEW, and need not be/have been a member of the GBEW Network Executive prior to appointment to office
- Following completion of the term/s of office, the Network Executive Chair shall not be eligible to serve on the GBEW Network Executive for a period of one year
- The election shall be held at a meeting of the GBEW Network Executive
- The GBEW Network Executive Chair shall take office at the end of the following Council Meeting. The GBEW Network Executive Chair shall also be the Chair of the GBEW Council.

Term of office

- The Chair will be elected for a period of three years, beginning in July 2021.
- This term may be extended for a further three-year term, to a maximum of six concurrent years (2021-2027).

Nomination and election timetable (2021)

| Task | Who | Closing date | Form |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Written or electronic nomination forms to GBM Director (<i>director@gb-ministries.org</i>) | Nominator | 4 May 2021 | GBF47 |
| Written or electronic acceptance of nomination to GBM Director (<i>director@gb-ministries.org</i>) | Nominee | 4 May 2021 | GBF48 |
| By invitation from the GB Support Centre, nominees may then be called to: | | | |
| Meet nomination panel | Panel & nominee | w/b 24 May 2021 | |
| Meet and present to Network Executive Committee | Panel & nominee | 12 June 2021 | |
| Election | Network Executive | 12 June 2021 | |
| Nominees contacted | GBM Director | After 12 June | |
| Commissioning | TBC | 3 July 2021 | |
| Take office | New Chair | 3 July 2021 | |

Forms

There are two key forms for completion for this nomination process:

- GBF47 – nomination for role of GBEW Network Chair - to be completed by GBEW Council Member making the nomination

- GBF48 – acceptance of nomination for role of GBEW Network Chair - to be completed by the nominee.

GBEW Network Chair example diary

| Date | Meeting/event |
|--|--|
| Saturday 6 March | (Attend) GBEW Network Conference – Bedford (election ratified) |
| Thursday 27 May | (Attend) Trustee Board – via Zoom |
| Saturday 12 June | (Chair) GBEW Network Executive - Birmingham |
| Saturday 3 July | (Chair) GBEW Network Conference – Cliff College |
| Friday 20 August (evening) | (Attend) Trustee Board – via Zoom |
| Friday 1 October (evening) to Sunday 3 October | (Attend) GB Europe Fellowship Executive |
| Saturday 16 October | (Chair) GBEW Network Executive – Birmingham |
| Saturday 6 November | (Chair) GBEW Network Conference – Reading |
| Friday 19 November | (Attend) Trustee Board - London |

**March 2021
Nominations panel
GB Support Centre**