

## TRUSTEE TESTIMONIAL Q&A

**Joe McNeill, Trustee of Tivoli Training Centre**  
**Retired, Central Bank of Ireland**



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### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN A CHARITY BOARD?

As someone who was close to retirement, and who has always been interested in community and social awareness work, I approached Boardmatch to see what types of positions were available, which I could contribute to. Following this engagement, I joined Tivoli Training Centre, a community-based programme of education, training and self-development for marginalised people, particularly young adults, who are on probation and at risk of re-offending. The programme covers the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown and surrounding areas.

### WHAT SKILLS DID YOU BRING TO THE BOARD?

The Board encompasses a wide range of skills from the voluntary, government and business sectors with experience in probation, training and policing. I was invited to join as the Board, as there were vacancies and I knew the Board was seeking to broaden its skills base, and I have long experience in public sector roles.

#### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR BOARD EXPERIENCE?

The experience in Tivoli has been very enlightening for someone like me, with little experience of programmes to rehabilitate people at risk, particularly those of a young age. The programmes offered are diverse and varied and regularly reviewed to ensure client needs are met. Being on the Board has not only provided me with an understanding of the great work undertaken by Tivoli, but also highlighted all the legal, compliance and administrative issues associated with running a charitable organisation. These challenges highlight the need for a wide range of skills and expertise on boards, and the need to have proper governance structures in place. Working with Tivoli has been hugely rewarding and educational for me, particularly in terms of better understanding the problems faced by people on the margins. I would strongly encourage people to engage with Boardmatch, as working on boards offers great benefits, not only professionally in terms of driving the strategy of an organisation, but also in terms of making a valuable contribution to society.