

Children's University Trust announces new Chief Executive.



Children's University Trust are thrilled to announce the appointment of Sonjia Peers, as their new Chief Executive.

Sonjia joins Children University Trust after 7 years at HALE, an award-winning health development charity as CEO, responsible for leading and implementing the strategic aims and ambitions in line with their vision, mission and values. Sonjia stepped into the role as CEO in 2020 and led HALE through a significant period of growth and change, building the stability and strengthening the position of the charity.

Sonjia's charity leadership experience spans 15 years, working to create positive social change with and for some of the most disadvantaged communities. Her previous roles include, CEO of a dedicated women's charity, and Executive Director of a thriving social enterprise, both with a key focus on improving the wellbeing, life chances and opportunities of children and families.

Sonjia will take up the role in January 2024, following the departure of Helen O' Donnell in December 2023.



Sonjia said:

"I am honoured to be joining Children's University Trust at such a critical time, when extra-curricular activities have significantly reduced due to spending cuts and the cost-of-living crisis is putting even greater strain on families than ever before.

It will be a privilege to lead such a values-driven organisation and I am thrilled to be joining a talented team. I am determined to build on the reputation and impact that Children's University Trust has achieved to date, knowing that our children and young people need more support than ever to raise their aspirations and achieve their goals."

Professor Jackie Dunne, Chair of Children's University Trust, said:

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees I am delighted to be welcoming Sonjia Peers as our CEO. Sonjia brings with her a wealth of experience as well as a strong passion for the work of the Children's University and we look forward to working with her as she takes the organisation to the next stage of its development."