

# Help and support

NCVO's Governance and Leadership team

[www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership)

Charity Commission

[www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)



**Volunteer Centre**

Kensington & Chelsea

Charities, community organisations and social enterprises across the country need you to help run their organisation

To find out about becoming a trustee of an organisation in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea contact Siobhan or Brenda on 020 7243 9807 or [siobhan@kcsc.org.uk](mailto:siobhan@kcsc.org.uk)

# JOIN TRUSTEE

And make a difference



## People like you are trustees

# There are almost a million trustees in the UK and their efforts touch virtually every one of us in some way

## Why become a trustee?

Trusteeship is a great way to make a difference to a cause you care about. It is also a respected and responsible role and can be a great route to develop skills, gain experience and meet new people.

*'Sometimes the responsibilities are extremely serious and take time and dedication but the reward is a lot of satisfaction, fun and good company'*

Colin Rogers, Trustee, Royal Mencap Society

## What is a trustee?

In charities and voluntary organisations throughout the country, whether it is a small group of volunteers working locally or a large complex national charity with paid staff, there is a group of people who are responsible for the organisation. These are the trustees.

## Who can be a trustee?

Most people can become a trustee, but there are a few restrictions. The Charity Commission's publication *CC3 The Essential Trustee* provides further information. Find out more at [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

They work as a group, usually known as the board. Trustees must ensure that the organisation pursues its charitable objects (what it was set up to achieve), protects its assets (such as its funds), complies with the law and its governing document (the rulebook for how the charity is run), remains solvent and does not expose the organisation to undue risk.

*'It's an amazing opportunity to make a difference to how an organisation runs as well as being personally rewarding'*

Emily Beardsmore, Trustee, British Youth Council

## What about trustee liability?

It is very rare for charity trustees who act reasonably and in good faith to be held personally financially liable. However, liability is a concern and it is important for all trustees to be aware of what it means for them. Find out more at [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership)

## Would you make a good trustee?

People from all walks of life have experience and skills that would make them a good trustee. No-one on a board is expected to be good at everything. It is your knowledge and experience that makes you uniquely capable and valuable as a trustee. Ideally trustees should have:

- A commitment to and support for the purpose, objects, and values of the organisation

- A willingness to devote the time and effort required (this varies from organisation to organisation)
- An ability to analyse information and, when necessary, challenge constructively
- An understanding of their legal duties and responsibilities
- An ability to work as part of a team.

For more information on the responsibilities and duties of charity trustees go to [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership)