

## Role description: trustee

### The duties of a trustee

- Ensure that the organisation complies with its governing document (i.e. its trust deed, constitution or memorandum and articles of association), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Ensure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- Ensure that the organisation applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects (ie the charity must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objects, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are)
- Contribute actively to the board of trustees' role by giving:
  - firm strategic direction to the organisation
  - setting overall policy
  - defining goals
  - setting targets
  - evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Safeguard the good name and values of the organisation
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation
- Ensure the financial stability of the organisation
- Protect and manage the property of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds
- Appoint the chief executive officer and monitor his/her performance if the charity employs staff.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the board of trustees reach sound decisions.

This may involve:

- scrutinising board papers
- leading discussions
- focusing on key issues
- providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

### Trustee person specification

- A commitment to the organisation
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Strategic vision
- Good, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- A willingness to speak their mind
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team

- Nolan's seven principles of public life:
  - selflessness
  - integrity
  - objectivity
  - accountability
  - openness
  - honesty
  - leadership.