

# Ever Thought About Becoming A Charity Trustee?



*Becoming a Trustee is a fantastic way to give something back to a local cause that you care about, all whilst gaining valuable experience and learning new skills within a leadership role.*

Keep reading to find  
out more...



# What Is A Charity Trustee & Who Can Become One?

## What Is A Charity Trustee?

Charity trustees are defined as ‘the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity’ (Charities Act 2011, section 177), and have specific duties that are set out in their organisation's constitution or governing document. Collectively, trustees are the group of people (also called the Board of Trustees) who act in the charity's best interests and strategically oversee the management and administration of the organisation. The duties of trustees can vary a lot, depending on the size of your charity.

## Who Can Become A Trustee?

Most people can become trustees. Trustees generally need to be over the age of 18 and cannot have been previously disqualified as a trustee or company director, be an undischarged bankrupt or have certain unspent criminal convictions. Trustees of charities working with children or vulnerable adults generally need their trustees to also be DBS checked.

***Charity trustees play a very important role in making sure that the charity is run in the interests of the people it is there to support.***

# 10 Great Reasons To Become A Trustee

- 1 Meet new people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- 2 It will enhance your personal & professional career development.
- 3 Make a real difference to a local cause in Medway that is important to you.
- 4 Gain valuable experience and learn new skills within a leadership role.
- 5 You will learn from other trustees and gain new insights from seeing how other leaders respond to situations and make decisions.
- 6 You will be providing support to a CEO leading an organisation that is making a real difference to individuals and communities in Medway.
- 7 You can play a fundamental role in the strategic development of a local organisation or cause that you are passionate about.
- 8 It will provide opportunities for you to challenge yourself, by applying your skills in a different environment.
- 9 You will gain non-executive board experience.
- 10 It can help expand your professional network.



*As a trustee, you are part of a team and will have the opportunity to apply your unique skills and experience while learning from others.*

# The Top Traits of a Great Trustee



On top of having relevant knowledge, skills, networks and experiences, great trustees should have good self-awareness and be proactive in their approach to supporting their charity and everyone it serves. Below are some universally recognised top traits of great trustees:

**Being Able to Listen** - A good trustee will have the ability to listen to and have the desire to hear the voices of those who are impacted by the decisions they make.

**Being Committed** - A good trustee needs to be fully committed to their own development and their organisation's purpose and beneficiaries. But not only that, they need to give the time and dedication to the role to ensure they make a positive difference. Great trustees should also be naturally generous with their skills and support for the charity.

**Being Able to Challenge** - A good trustee should be willing to have an informed debate at meetings and make well thought out decisions. They're there to ask important and sometimes difficult questions, to scrutinise and to challenge.

*A lesser known fact is that some of the best trustees out there have few formal qualifications but a wealth of experience, appropriate characteristics and a willingness to learn.*

# The Top Traits of a Great Trustee



**Being Transparent** - A good trustee should be open in their governance to protect the reputation of their organisation. They should also be open to the voices of their stakeholders and actively listen to their views.

**Being A Team Player**- A good trustee needs to be a team player who works with other board members to advance the best interests of the organisation and its beneficiaries, and their collective responsibility in decision making and governance. Good trustees should be able to work well on their own and as a team and be able to leave their ego at the door.

**Being Curious** - A good trustee should be curious, not just about the work of their organisation, but also about their role and responsibilities. They don't have to be an expert in all areas of governance, but they do need to be prepared to learn and know where the gaps lie and get the support and training to fill them.

*Important qualities of a trustee are honesty, stability, dependability, a great attitude and the ability to devote their time and energy to something they are passionate about.*

# Further Reading & Resources

## On Becoming A Trustee

If you're now thinking that being a trustee is potentially for you, then the next step is to find out more and start thinking about what you are able to offer and looking for a local cause that you can get passionate about.

Follow this link to visit MVA's website section on Trustee Support & Advice: Click [HERE](#)

Here you will find:

- The Charity Commission Essential Trustee Guide
- [The Charity Commission 'A Breath Of Fresh Air' Guide On Young People As Trustees](#)
- Getting On Board's Short Video 'What's The First Thing You Need To Know About Becoming A Trustee'
- [NCVO Easy To Read Good Trustee Guide On How Trustees Look After A Charity](#)
- Reach Volunteering Guide On Becoming A Trustee
- [MVA's Common Trustee Myths – Busted! Information Sheet](#)
- MVA's Things To Think About When Becoming a Trustee Information Pack
- [MVA's Short Video On 'Demystifying The Trustee Role'](#)
- [Don't Take Our Word For It! Check Out MVA's Selection Of Local Trustee Case Studies](#)
- Getting On Boards Finding A Trustee Position Directory: Click [HERE](#)

***Interested in learning more? Then MVA can help: Get in touch with us today:***



volunteering@mva.org.uk



01634 812 850



www.mva.org.uk

MVA, 5a New Road Avenue, Chatham,  
Kent, ME4 6BB  
Registered Charity Number: 1042475

