

Things to Think About When Considering Becoming a Trustee

So, you like the idea of becoming a trustee, but what are the key things to think about before you go ahead and commit to a charity?

The role of a Trustee incorporates various responsibilities; there is a great deal of emphasis on keeping the organisation focused on their purpose, directing strategy, raising the profiles of the brands, and ultimately, ensuring the Charity operates legitimately.

Trustees also need to stay ahead of trends, maximise opportunities, and consider ways in which technology can be used to achieve commercial success.



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Time

How much time are you willing and able to give? The time required to be a trustee is very much dependent on the charity but before approaching them, think about how much time you are willing to give and check if this fits with their requirements. Ask questions about: how often they meet, where the meetings are and how much of your time is needed outside of meetings. This will give you a good idea of the level of commitment that is expected.

Skills

What skills and experience do you have to offer? Not having any experience of the charity sector should not be a barrier to your involvement as a trustee, in fact many organisations are looking for skills from other sectors to enhance their board and provide a fresh perspective. Think about what you can contribute to the board, such as, great organisational skills, experience of strategy development, marketing or financial experience, access to your network, etc. The organisation will often have a clear idea of the skills they require so have a chat to see if you would be a good fit.



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Choosing A Charity

Are you interested in a particular cause? It is not surprising that people become trustees of charities tackling issues they care about and this is really important. Attending a board meeting after a tiring day at work or an away day on a Saturday morning is much easier if the cause is something you are passionate about.

Legal Obligations

The Charity Commission provides extensive materials on the legal obligations for trustees and detailed guides on what being a trustee involves. The organisation you join should provide an induction to ensure you know what is expected and your responsibilities. But it is always worth speaking to other trustees to see how it all works in practice.



“A good trustee shows commitment, boundaries, interest, kindness and courage” – Anon CEO

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 Reasons To Become A Trustee 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:



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