

Trustee role description

Statutory Duties

The statutory duties of a trustee are:

- To ensure that the organisation complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- To ensure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- To ensure the organisation uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects
- To contribute actively to the board of trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation
- To protect and manage the property of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds.

Other duties

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 guidance on new initiatives
- Other issues in which the trustee has special expertise
- Appointing and supporting the Chief Executive

Trustee person specification

- Commitment to the organisation
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to trusteeship of the organisation:
 - including regular attendance at board meetings plus the Annual General Meeting and Conference and Awaydays. Trustees may also be asked to join other committees that may be set up from time to time to deal with specific issues or pieces of work; or occasionally to sit on recruitment panels.
- Ability to act as an effective advocate for the organisation
- Strategic vision
- Good, independent judgement
- Ability to think creatively
- Willingness to speak their mind
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- Ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- Adherence to Nolan's seven principles: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.