

# What sort of person makes a good trustee?



The Charity Commission, which regulates charities in England and Wales, says: "Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. Charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of a charity."

Trustees are legally and financially responsible for an organisation. They carry out a range of roles and duties to ensure that the organisation runs well. Trustees make the major decisions affecting the charity and are responsible for setting the strategic direction of its work.

Charitable childcare providers and pre-schools benefit children, as they closely involve parents/carers in the day-to-day running of the provision, its funding, and its overall management

The Trustees work with the Childcare/Pre-school staff to ensure the smooth running of the setting. Each volunteer member of the Committee brings different skills, which are invaluable to the running of the setting, for example, marketing, HR, management, legal, secretarial, financial, others may have worked with children before, or in roles working directly with the public, the important thing is, you don't need any direct experience to make a difference

## Trustees are responsible for:

- to act in the best interests of the childcare setting (charity), promoting its values and working to achieve its charitable objectives
- complying with the rules of the constitution, adhering to charity law and other regulations that govern the work of the setting
- contributing to the decision-making process, safe recruitment and business planning
- supporting the senior staff in managing the organisation's finances and personnel
- making sure that the provision has, and works to, policies and procedures which help it to provide a high-quality service
- making sure they work in partnership with the children's parents
- fundraising



The truth about being a trustee is that it requires dedication to doing a good job and having the ability to juggle your time, the payback can be immense in terms of skills development, networking and pride. Being a trustee is an opportunity for anyone to broaden their skills sets, regardless of age, and is a great addition to any CV.

## What's in it for a new trustee?

- the opportunity to meet other parents/carers
- community involvement
- insight into the way early years/childcare settings operate
- access to training opportunities
- learn new skills within a leadership role
- ability to contribute skills and expertise to a cause that is important to them
- partnership working and fundraising
- fun and friendship

Having people with different experiences, ages and background at board level often leads to magical results and really improves the impact charities have on the communities they serve.

The Charity Commission is a great source of information for anyone considering becoming a trustee <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

## You may also be interested in:

The importance of good governance, *smalltalk*, (autumn 2020), pg 6 - 7  
Disclosure and Barring Service – did you know?, *smalltalk* (autumn 2021), pg 4 – 5  
5-minute guides for charity trustees: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/5-minute-guides-for-charity-trustees>

## Don't forget

Early Years Wales members can download back issues of *smalltalk* for free: [earlyyears.wales/shop](https://earlyyears.wales/shop)