

6 Tips for Trustees

In recent years charity rules and regulations have tightened and the job of a charity trustee has become tougher than ever. With over 168,000 registered charities in the UK the demand is high for skilled trustees.

In light of this Ascentis have developed an interactive learning resource, which aims to help you understand the role, responsibilities and the requirements of becoming a charity trustee.

Ascentis have outlined what they feel are the top 6 requirements of becoming a successful charity trustee:

Understand your role and what is expected of you

First of all, you need to understand what will be expected of you as a trustee. There are numerous publications by the Charity Commission that can be used as guidance. [Understand your charity](#)

It is important to know what the charity is about and how your role fits in with the charity's objectives. You need to know the charity's goals, mission and who their stakeholders are.

The charity's governing document will inform you what the charity's objectives are and the powers you have as a trustee.

Understand the charity's mission

Always make decisions with the charity's mission statement and stakeholders in mind as you will be responsible for the charity's actions. Don't be influenced by personal interests or the media.

Don't be afraid to ask questions and apply yourself

As a trustee, you will be legally responsible for your charity. As a result, it is important that you make enquiries to ensure you have a sufficient knowledge to fulfil the responsibilities of your role.

Before you start, conducting a skills and experience review can be useful. This will highlight how your skills could aid how the charity works and how the board is run.

Always keep learning

As a trustee, it is important that you keep learning so that you can help your charity benefit and adapt to opportunities, problems and changes in your sector.

Reading, training, sharing information and communicating with other industry professionals is vital to ensure that your charity is successful and compliant with legal obligations.

Take responsibility for the Annual Report

All trustees need to remember that they are responsible for the annual report and must ensure that every decision and all expenditure is recorded. This is where many charities can come unstuck when justifying and providing materials to support decisions.