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TELL OTHERS PLEASE!

CTN works with anyone who supports trustees (not just people who run networks). Do other people in your organisation know about us and how we can help them?

Why not mention us at a team meeting, or put something in an email – we'd be happy to provide you with some text or leaflets if that would be helpful.

News, information and updates for trustee network organisers

Always being asked where charities can get new trustees?

If you work regularly with charities you'll have been asked where they can find new trustees.

To help address this issue CTN has launched **trusteefinder**, an online tool where boards can register their vacancies, and which people interested in becoming a trustee can search for a suitable vacancy.

There are thousands of vacancies on **trusteefinder**, posted by trusteeenet members and also drawn from the National Volunteering Database, which is populated by local Volunteer Centres and run by do-it.org.uk. It is available on CTN's website www.trusteenet.org.uk or by typing in www.trusteefinder.org.uk. Please do pass this news on to trustees and other organisations.

Good behaviour on the board

Trustees have often told CTN about issues their boards are facing as a result of the behaviour of other trustees. To help management committees and trustee boards to avoid and deal with such issues, CTN has developed a booklet which provides practical guidance on how to introduce and develop a code of conduct which is suitable for individual boards. It includes example codes of conduct, hint and tips and case studies of how other charities have used codes of conduct.

The booklet was launched at a Parliamentary Reception on 19 November, attended by Kevin Brennan, MP, Minister for the Third Sector. He said, "I warmly welcome this new guidance on codes of conduct for charity trustees, which will offer practical help to trustee boards in strengthening their governance arrangements."

The booklet is available to download free in pdf format from www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/2099, and hard copies can be purchased from CTN for £6 each plus post and packaging.

CTN can run workshops based on the Codes of Conduct booklet. These cost £200 plus expenses. If you are interested please contact Claire Farmer on 01483 230 289 or claire.f@trusteenet.org.uk

Your network's profile

Our website has a page devoted to each trustee network that we know about. These give information about the network, contact details, and information about past and future meetings.

We're very happy to put any information you want on these pages, and want to make sure that they are kept up to date. So do have a look at them and let us have any information you'd like us to add to them.

The network pages can be found at www.trusteenet.org.uk/networks.

Ideas for networks

Every issue of this newsletter contains practical ideas for network exercises and networking opportunities. Do let us know if you've got any good examples which we can share with other network organisers.

Someone like you

This is a networking activity for largish groups of people, maybe at the end of a meeting when you want to encourage people to hang around and talk to each other.

Get everyone standing in the room and ask them to find someone who has something similar to them for example,

- whose name starts with the same letter as theirs
- Whose birthday is in the same month
- Who has the same favourite colour/food etc

Tell them they've got 10 minutes to find 2 additional things that they have in common. At the end of 10 minutes give them another criteria which they should use to find someone else to talk to.

It doesn't actually matter if people don't find someone with the same birthday month, favourite colour etc, as it is getting people talking and mixing that is the important thing.

Be prepared to look after people who don't find someone to talk to – either encouraging them into a pair that has already formed or pairing up a couple of people who are looking lonely.

Resources for networks

It's impossible for you or us to know everything that is going on that can affect trustees and their charities, and our newsletters can only cover so much. CTN has a section on its website which lists a selection of e-newsletters that trustees can sign up to which will keep them up to date with a wide range of subjects from employment law to finance issues.

All these can be found at <http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/2058>

Case Study – Central London Trustee Network

Background

CTN does not normally run networks itself, but felt that the lack of a network for trustees in Central London was one that should be addressed.

Resourcing the network

CTN put together a proposal for Kingston Smith LLP, an accountancy firm which works extensively with charities, proposing that they host a Central London Trustee Network.

The proposal was for 2 meetings in the second half of 2008/09, followed by a review. CTN would organise and publicise the meetings as well as facilitating them and organising speakers. CTN would also create a page on its website for the Central London Trustee Network which would provide information about the network and acknowledge the support of Kingston Smith. Kingston Smith agreed to provide a venue, catering and a contribution to administrative costs.

The first meeting

The first meeting of the network took place on 15 October. About 27 people had signed up to come, but there was a significant drop-out on the day (not helped by it raining incredibly heavily).

Your events

Please do tell us about your network events (and other events for trustees) as we're keen to publicise as many events for trustees as possible.

Charity Trustee Networks exists to support trustees, and we consider networks to be one of the key ways of doing this. Please get in touch if there is anything we can do to support you.

Claire Farmer, Head of Operations, CTN
01483 239 289
0787 282 3075
claire.f@trusteenet.org.uk

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2nd Floor, The Guildford Institute, Ward Street, GU1 4LH.
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The subject was effective meetings and CTN had asked a facilitator, Martin Farrell (who has written on the subject), to run the meeting. It was planned to contain a mixture of Martin speaking on the subject and opportunities for trustees to share their experiences and talk to each other.

Towards the end of the meeting the trustees present were asked to fill in a form indicating their preferred days, times, formats and subjects for future meetings. These will then be used to plan future meetings.

The trustees indicated that they would (in general) like early evening meetings in the first half of the week using a variety of different formats.

The main subjects which trustees would like to be covered are:

- Roles of trustees, chairs, treasurers etc
- Induction of trustees
- Dealing with tricky issues on the board
- Compliance and legal issues

The trustees who came to the meeting were very positive about it, and were clear that they wanted more meetings in the future.

Future meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for 30th March and will look at preventing and addressing issues on boards using codes of conduct. Following this CTN and Kingston Smith will meet to review the network so far and decide how to take it into the future.

For more information about this network please contact Claire Farmer at claire.f@trusteenet.org.uk

Network Focus Archive

Previous issues of Network Focus are available at www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/2052