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## news and opinion from a trustee perspective

### What a website!

CTN has just relaunched its website: [www.trusteenet.org.uk](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk)



We have made the forums easier to use, added lots more resources, given you more opportunities to have your say and improved the design. We have also added a trustee recruitment page, to which you can add your vacancies. We think it is a vast improvement and we hope you'll find it useful and interesting.

We'd love to have your feedback and ideas about the website so please get in touch [info@trusteenet.org.uk](mailto:info@trusteenet.org.uk).

### Code of Governance Review

The Governance Hub has commissioned an independent evaluation of the awareness, usage and influence of the Code of Good Governance. The Code is a tool to help organisations develop good practice in governance. Do share your views on it, whether you have used it or not.

You can take part by:

- responding to the on-line consultation questionnaire <http://www.nfpsynergy.net/codeofgoodgovernancesurvey>
- registering to attend one of the 8 consultation events planned across the country by emailing your contact details to [governance@nfpsynergy.net](mailto:governance@nfpsynergy.net)

The Code of Good Governance is available at -

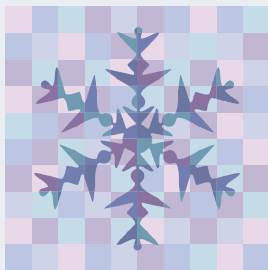
[http://www.governancehub.org.uk/code\\_of\\_governance.html](http://www.governancehub.org.uk/code_of_governance.html)

The consultation is open until 18<sup>th</sup> January and is being led by independent not-for-profit think tank nfpSynergy.

### The End of the Year

With so much on at this time of the year it can be difficult to make sure that the appropriate documents are filed with the Charity Commission on time.

Charities with an income of £10,000 or below need only provide the Commission with any changes to their charity's registered details,



WITH BEST WISHES FOR  
 THE SEASON FROM ALL  
 OF US AT CTN

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK?

We're looking for trustees willing to be trustee of the week on our website. All you have to do is answer a few questions and provide a photograph of yourself. We'll include a link from Trustee of the Week to your charity's website, so more people can find out about what you do. Email Sue [sue.h@trusteenet.org.uk](mailto:sue.h@trusteenet.org.uk)

including their income and expenditure for their last financial year.

Charities with an income exceeding £10,000 need to submit a copy of their accounts, including a Trustees' Annual Report, and complete an Annual Return.

All these documents have to be filed within ten months from the end of the charity's last financial year and the Commission is encouraging charities to file them as soon as possible.

It is easy to submit documents online, and there is an added incentive for charities with an income under £250,000 – use the Commission's online services and the charity will be put into a monthly £1,000 prize draw. Online services can be accessed through the Commission's website at [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk). The Commission's dedicated helpline at 0845 3000 218 is also available from 8am to 8pm on weekdays and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays.

## Chief Executives on Governance

Recent research into the views of Chief Executives has led to a number of recommendations for improving governance in the voluntary sector.

In addition to encouraging good practice, the report from the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) recommends that the sector should consider payment for trustees and the introduction of a 'senior trustee' role, which would hold the chair to account. They also urge regulators to 'come down hard' on cases where poor governance is failing beneficiaries.

What are your views? You can see our response to the report on our website (in the news section), but do please send us an email or post your views on the Forum pages of [www.trusteenet.org.uk](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk).

## Trusteenetplus lunch – more places available

Our January lunch for **trusteenetplus** members has proved very popular and we have managed to increase the number of places available.

If you are a member of **trusteenetplus** and are available in central London between 12:30 and 2:30 on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January we would love to invite you to join us for lunch, networking and discussion.

## CTN Survey – what you said

Many thanks to those who completed our survey on what you need. We received a lot of valuable comments and information which will help us shape the work we do for you.

There were a wide range of the issues that you said you need help with, including lack of time; how to refresh a board; recruitment of trustees; keeping up to date; and finding funding. Many of these are ones that trustees come up against regularly, and we hope that the new improved discussion forums on our website will enable you to help each other with these issues.

What you valued most were briefings and fact sheets (71% of respondents), followed by signposting to other sources of support (62%) and on-line forums or face-to-face networks (51%). We've addressed some of these needs on our new website and enhanced its resources section, so please have a look. And if you don't find what you need there, do tell us.

A full report of the survey will be published on our website in January.

KEEP YOUR DETAILS UP  
TO DATE

If your details have changed,  
log in to  
[www.trusteenet.org.uk](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk) to  
update them.

### **CTN's Lunch and Lecture in York**

The sun shone for CTN's lunch and lecture at York Racecourse on 9 November, and just as well because their heating was broken.

Following a delicious lunch, Julia Unwin, Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, encouraged trustees to ask 3 key questions of themselves –

- Why are we here?
- Who are we?
- What are we doing?

She delivered an insightful exploration of each of these questions, which highlighted how trustee boards can become more aware of their own ways of working and can perform more effectively. The full text of Julia's speech is available to download at [www.trusteenet.org.uk/news/ask-yourself-few-questions](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/news/ask-yourself-few-questions). The PowerPoint presentations from the workshops will also be available soon.

In addition to the lunch and lecture, there were workshops on investments, the Charities Act 2006 and trusteeship and governance.

### **BME Truste-e-Network: Training for Chairs & Trustees**

The Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG) are hosting 'Training for Chairs & Trustees'. Workshops are being run in December and March 2007 to provide support and training to encourage the professional development of BME chairs and trustees.

- Workshop 1 – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 (10am to 4pm)
- Workshop 2 – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 (10am to 4pm)

Some of the areas that will be explored in the workshops include:

- The Code of good governance: Responsibilities of trustees
- Strategies for recruiting and supporting trustees
- Dealing with conflict on the board
- Making meetings work

Attending the training will also give participants the opportunity to meet other BME chairs and trustees, with whom they can share knowledge and exchange ideas.

To find out more about joining the 'Truste-e-Network' and to book for these programmes, contact Anthony directly on 020 7843 6126 or email [Anthony@bteg.co.uk](mailto:Anthony@bteg.co.uk). Spaces are limited so book now to reserve yours.

### **Course in Effective Voluntary Sector Leadership**

The Workforce Hub and Working For a Charity have developed an online learning course called Effective Voluntary Sector Management that is now recruiting for its next course, which runs from February to October 2008.

The accredited course is for people who have recently joined the voluntary sector, or who are looking to make a career move into it. Volunteers and trustees will also benefit from the course.

To register and find out more, go to [www.workingforacharity.org.uk](http://www.workingforacharity.org.uk)

### **Exhibition for charities**

The Charities and Associations Exhibition (CHASE) takes place on 26 & 27

February 2008 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. **CHASE** exhibitors aim to provide visitors with a comprehensive range of sector services including: IT, professional services, investment management, printing & publishing, conference venues and fundraising goods. There is also a full seminar programme on a range of subjects relevant to charities.

Entry to **CHASE** and all seminars is FREE. A full listing of seminars, exhibitors and a registration form is available online at [www.chase2008.org.uk](http://www.chase2008.org.uk).

### What you think

Results of the last 4 polls on [www.trusteenet.org.uk/your-voice/polls](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/your-voice/polls)

Does your board have a Code of Conduct?

Yes 67% No 22% Don't know 11%

Were you given a copy of your charity's governing document when you became a trustee?

Yes 70% No 20% Don't know 10%

Do you give financially to any charity you are a trustee of?

Yes, regularly 44% Yes, occasionally 19% No 38%

Do you claim expenses while acting as a trustee?

Always 15% Occasionally 46% Never 38%

### Network Events

Please go to [www.trusteenet.org.uk/events](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/events) for more details of these events

**10 January** - Birmingham Trustee Network Session – Governance Q & As and guest speaker

**21 January** – Birmingham – Building a Successful Board

**22 January** – London – Network of Women Chairs meeting

**22 January** – Lewes – First meeting of Lewes District Trustee Network

CTN promotes face-to-face trustee networks and there are a number of active networks listed on our website. To find out if there is one near you, go to the **networks** page on our website for a listing. If you find that there isn't one, why not start one of your own? For advice on how to do it, just download our helpsheet '[How to set up a network](#)'.

### Any other business?

Do let us have your feedback on this e-newsletter by replying to this email. **Trustee focus** is sent out bi-monthly, with the next one going out at the start of February 2008. If you have any ideas for what should be in that newsletter, please let us know.

This newsletter is sent to you by CTN

3-4 Frensham Suite,  
Friary Court, 13-21 High  
St, Guildford GU1 3DG.

If you would prefer not to receive it, please email [info@trusteenet.org.uk](mailto:info@trusteenet.org.uk) and you will be removed from our mailing list.

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