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Email:
membership@trusteenet.org.uk

NB: Places are still available for CTN's Annual Lunch and Lecture on 16th June in London. For more information go to www.trusteenet.org.uk/events/ctn-annual-lunch-and-lecture

news and opinion from a trustee's perspective

How do you know your board is doing a good job?

Boards don't necessarily know how other boards are doing things and can often avoid the tricky subject of talking about 'how it is'. But good boards make a great difference - and bad boards drag an organisation down.

The answer to the first part of this problem is to get feedback and there are plenty of sources for that feedback – training, appraisals, facilitated events, even audits. But none of them tell you how your board compares with what others do and how well they are doing it.

BoardsCount™ was designed by sector representatives to fill this gap. It provides you with the information you need to let you know how you compare with other similar boards in the sector – and how your trustees and senior staff feel about issues.

If the fundamental job of a board is to provide leadership for the organisation, along with effective control and accountability mechanisms, a board will want to know: are we providing this organisation with the right kind of leadership and level of control?

To answer that question there are three underlying self-assessment questions that all boards can ask themselves at any time:

1. To what extent are we working on the right things, or spending our time in the right way – on the essential areas such as planning and performance management?
2. To what extent are we working well together – in terms of our formal structures, our meetings and our working relationships?
3. To what extent do we have the people we need – in terms of skills, community voice, perspectives, beneficiaries, etc?

Answers to these questions will give your board a shared view about what's going well and what might need to change in the next year. A systematic approach in this way helps take the heat out of what can be an awkward conversation. You don't need BoardsCount™ to have this conversation, but it does give you the data to do so.

CTN has teamed with BoardsCount™ to offer a specially negotiated member rate. Trusteenetplus members will get a 15% discount, plus a free peer group report. Trustees who are simply registered for free on CTN's website will get a 5% discount only. For more information on how to register for these benefits go to www.trusteenet.org.uk/upgrade

For more details about BoardsCount™ go to www.BoardsCount.com.

Pass it on:

Have you told your fellow trustees about CTN? The more trustees register for free on our website the more we can help and support by sending out this newsletter and other information. So do pass on our details.

Tip:

If your organisation is a charitable company there are a number of things that must appear on your emails and website -

- Registered name
- Registered company number
- Address
- Place of registration
- Limited company status

Clarifying Trustee Payments and Expenses

The Charities Act 2006 brought in changes which allow charity trustees to be paid for providing their charities with goods and services, and new guidance published by the Charity Commission clarifies how boards should handle both these types of payments and general trustee expenses.

The principle of voluntary trusteeship remains central to trusteeship. The Commission's updated guidance, **Trustee expenses and payments (CC11)**, confirms this but also provides answers to the most common questions involved when trustee payment becomes an issue, including :

- when trustees can be paid for supplying goods and services
- what to do about accountability and management of conflicts of interest
- when it might be appropriate to pay a trustee for their trusteeship; and
- what does and does not count as reasonable expenses

The guidance is available at

www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc11.asp

Trustee Networks

Networking is a great way for trustees to support each other and share their experiences and knowledge. CTN encourages and supports trustee networks around the country - there is a list of some trustee networks at www.trusteenet.org.uk/networks/browse

If you are involved with a network that isn't on this list or are interested in setting up a trustee network in your area, please do get in touch with Claire Farmer at claire.f@trusteenet.org.uk or on 01483 230 289

For those of you who work in CVSs and are interested in trustee support and networking – CTN is running a session for network organisers and anyone interested in this kind of work at NAVCA's national conference this year. This takes place in Nottingham on 16th September and our session is at 4:30pm. For more information contact Claire Farmer or just come along to the conference and turn up.

Charities Act 2006 – further changes implemented

The third and fourth commencement orders of the Charities Act 2006 have been made, bringing a number of provisions into force. These include:

- the new statutory definition of 'charity'.
- accounting and reporting changes to bring the legal framework for charities up to date.
- a requirement for professional fundraisers to state how much they are paid when asking for public donations.
- establishment of the Charity Tribunal.

For more information go to -

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/spr/charbill.asp

How to cut red tape!

We all grumble about over-regulation and difficult to understand guidance, but don't just moan, there is something you can do about it.

KEEP YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE

If you are no longer a trustee or your details have changed, log in to www.trusteenet.org.uk to update your details.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

Do let us have your feedback on this e-newsletter by replying to this email. Let us know if we are getting it right or how we can improve this e-newsletter, **trustee focus** goes out bi-monthly, and we want as much content as possible to be from you - we would really welcome your ideas and submissions.

The Better Regulation Executive (BRE) are keen to gather your ideas about improving regulation, and have created a portal to enable you to submit them easily. And they promise that you will be told about the progress of your idea and whether it is taken up or not.

To find out more and submit your idea go to www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/how-cut-out-red-tape

Make your voice heard: comment on the Draft Legislative Programme

Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector, has called on charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises to give their views on the Draft Legislative Programme (DLP) which will feed into the Queen's Speech in the autumn. The Minister stressed the importance that the Government places on the Third Sector's response to the DLP consultation which includes proposals for 18 new Bills.

To have your say go to - www.commonleader.gov.uk/output/page2465.asp#

New Guidance on CRB Checks for Volunteers

The Office of the Third Sector has published guidance to help organisations that use volunteers to be clear about when they do and don't need to carry out Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on volunteers.

The guidance will help cut unnecessary red tape and responds to concerns voiced by the voluntary sector that potential volunteers can be put off if they are asked to undergo a CRB check without good reason.

You can access the guidance and find further information on the OTS website.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080604_crb.aspx

RNID launches disability discrimination guide for charities

The RNID has launched a new guide, 'sound solutions' that aims to help charities and businesses to make the changes necessary to meet their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. This Act requires employers to make 'reasonable adjustments' for a disabled person.

The RNID guide gives details of the equipment available to help deaf or hard of hearing people, and is available at www.rnid.org.uk/soundsolutions

Getting a fair deal from contracts – Nottingham course

A 3 day introductory programme (23 & 24 June and 4 November) run by the Directory of Social Change, to equip managers and trustees with the essential knowledge skills and attitude to negotiate fairer contracts with public sector agencies.

This course only costs £50. For more information go to - www.trusteenet.org.uk/events/getting-fair-deal-contracts-2008-nottingham

More free ethical investment workshops for trustees

An introduction to responsible investment for charities.

- Monday 30th June, Manchester
- Thursday 10th July, Birmingham

To register for these free events or for more details please contact Sam Collin at the EIRIS Foundation: Tel: 020 7840 5738
Email: sam.collin@eiris.org Web: www.charitysri.org/events.html

Network Events in June, July and August

Please go to www.trusteenet.org.uk/events for more details of these and other events

- 16 June** – Network of Women Chairs – London
- 17 June** – Cumbria Trustee Network (South Lakeland)
- 25 June** – Cumbria Trustee Network (West Cumbria)
- 25 June** – Cumbria Trustee Network (Barrow)
- 26 June** – Vale Trustee Network – Vale of Glamorgan
- 2 July** – Cumbria Trustee Network (Carlisle)
- 7 July** – Cumbria Trustee Network (Eden)
- 7 July** – Southwark Trustees Network
- 9 July** – Chairs Network – Greater Manchester
- 21 August** – Lewes District Trustee Network

This newsletter is sent to you by CTN

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

If you would prefer not to receive it, please email membership@trusteenet.org.uk and you will be removed from our mailing list.

phone: 01483 230280

website: www.trusteenet.org.uk

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