



It may be important or of interest for the general public to have some awareness of the role of trustees in the charities they support.

In general, a trustee is a volunteer who has overall control and management of the charity.

They are responsible for ensuring the charity operates according to its purposes and for the public benefit. Trustees are the individuals who make decisions on behalf of the charity, working collectively as a board at formal meetings.

In more detail they are responsible for:

- Guiding the charity's direction and ensuring its purposes are carried out with oversight of its governance and long term strategy.
- They are legally required to ensure that its activities benefit the public/their members, and that it complies with all relevant laws and regulations and for the proper use of its assets and funds.
- Their legal responsibilities are significant and they can be held personally responsible for the charity's actions, if not incorporated [NB. incorporation provides the protection of limited liability for the trustees – to be incorporated, a charity must be registered with a regulator].
- Many charities have term limits for their trustees, as is generally recommended.

Guidance on setting up a charity, to find information on registered charities or other related information from the Charity Commission for England & Wales log in to :

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-services-for-charities>

Or advisers are available by phone 0300 066 9197 Monday to Friday 9 to 5 except for Wednesday 12 to 1pm.

www.windlesham.life

