

## Governance & Leadership Resources



Running a charity or community organisation usually begins with a simple but powerful idea. Someone sees a problem in their community and decides to do something about it. People gather around that purpose, energy builds, and a new organisation starts to take shape.

What many founders discover along the way is that passion and commitment are only part of what makes an organisation sustainable. Behind every strong charity sits something less visible but just as important: good governance.

Governance is simply the framework that helps an organisation make decisions well, stay accountable, and remain focused on its mission. It is about clarity of roles, strong leadership, thoughtful decision making and making sure the organisation uses its resources responsibly.

For smaller charities and community groups, governance can sometimes feel overwhelming. Many trustees are volunteers, and many founders are learning as they go. The good news is that there is a huge amount of excellent guidance available across the UK charity sector, created specifically to support organisations like yours.

Below are some of the most helpful resources to explore if you want to understand governance better, strengthen your board, or build strong foundations for your organisation.

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## Charity Governance Code

The Charity Governance Code is one of the most widely respected frameworks for good governance in the UK charity sector. It was developed by leading sector bodies to help charities think about what strong leadership and accountability look like in practice.

The code is structured around several key principles including organisational purpose, leadership, integrity, decision making and openness. It encourages boards to reflect on how well they are governing and to identify areas where they could strengthen their approach.

For both new and established charities, the code offers a thoughtful and practical framework for building a strong and responsible organisation.

Explore the Charity Governance Code  
<https://www.charitygovernancecode.org>

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## Charity Commission Guidance

The Charity Commission is the regulator for charities in England and Wales, and their website contains essential guidance for trustees and charity leaders.

Their resources explain the legal responsibilities of trustees, how charities should manage finances, what good decision making looks like, and how organisations remain accountable to the public.

If you are ever unsure about the formal duties of trustees or the regulatory expectations placed on charities, the Charity Commission guidance is the most authoritative place to start.

Explore Charity Commission guidance  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

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## NCVO Governance Guidance

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) provides practical, accessible guidance for charities and voluntary organisations across the UK.

Their governance resources cover topics such as building effective boards, understanding trustee responsibilities, improving board relationships and developing good governance culture. The advice is written in clear language and is particularly helpful for organisations navigating governance questions for the first time.

Many charity leaders turn to NCVO when they want practical insight into how governance works in real organisations.

Explore NCVO governance guidance

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/governance>

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## Reach Volunteering – Finding Trustees

One of the most common challenges charities face is finding the right trustees. A strong board depends on people with a mix of skills, experience and commitment to the organisation's mission.

Reach Volunteering connects charities with professionals who want to volunteer their expertise as trustees or skilled advisers. Many organisations have successfully recruited board members through Reach, particularly when looking for people with legal, financial, marketing or governance experience.

If you are looking to strengthen your board or bring new perspectives into your organisation, Reach is an excellent place to start.

Explore Reach Volunteering

<https://reachvolunteering.org.uk>

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## A Tool to Make Governance Easier

If you are building or strengthening a charity, you may also find it helpful to explore Charity Builder, Fabric's governance and organisational development platform.

Charity Builder was created to help charities and social impact organisations build the foundations they need to operate effectively. The platform includes tools that help organisations develop governance structures, create policies, define trustee roles, and design clear organisational frameworks.

Instead of starting from scratch, Charity Builder helps leaders generate governance documents, organisational plans and operational structures quickly and responsibly, allowing teams to focus more time on delivering impact.

If you are setting up a charity, reviewing your governance or supporting trustees in their roles, the platform can act as a practical companion to the guidance above.

Explore Charity Builder

<https://communityfabric.co/charity-builder>