

## What it means to be a Trustee

Barnsley & District u3a is a registered charity (number: 1077654) and our committee members are the Board of Trustees. This note contains pointers to where information about what that entails may be found.

Our registered charitable purpose (aka charitable object) is

### PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL, LEISURE TIME AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE NO LONGER IN FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT IN BARNSELEY AND ITS SURROUNDING LOCALITY

So the role of a Trustee is to ensure that everything we do aligns with that objective in a way which is sustainable and ethical and in accordance with Charity Commission regulation. Do not be daunted at becoming a Trustee, much of what is required is about good sense, probity and clear focus on what the charity is seeking to achieve (ie the purpose). A very useful document

[https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/pdf\\_gen?tabs\\_cookie=1](https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/pdf_gen?tabs_cookie=1) *The Charity Governance Code for Smaller Charities*, identifies seven principles of Trustee good practice

#### **1. Organisational purpose**

The committee is clear about the charity's aims and ensures that these are being delivered effectively and sustainably.

#### **2. Leadership**

Every charity is led by an effective committee that provides strategic leadership in line with the charity's aims and values.

#### **3. Integrity**

The committee acts with integrity, adopting values and creating a culture which help achieve the organisation's charitable purposes. The committee is aware of the importance of the public's confidence and trust in charities, and Trustees undertake their duties accordingly.

#### **4. Decision-making, risk and control**

The committee makes sure that its decision-making processes are informed, rigorous and timely and that effective delegation, control and risk assessment and management systems are set up and monitored.

#### **5. Committee effectiveness**

The committee works as an effective team, using the appropriate balance of skills, experience, backgrounds and knowledge to make informed decisions.

#### **6. Equality, diversity and inclusion**



The committee's approach to diversity supports its effectiveness, leadership and decision-making.

#### **7. Openness and accountability**

The committee leads the organisation in being transparent and accountable. The charity is open in its work, unless there is good reason for it not to be.

There are regulations on who is eligible to be a Trustee and these can be seen at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/Trustee-board-people-and-skills>

If you have questions about what it means to be a Trustee, by all means ask an existing committee member, however, it is advisable to look on the Charity Commission Website for an authoritative answer.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

The Third Age Trust run workshops for Trustees and potential Trustees which you are welcome to attend <https://www.u3a.org.uk/members-area>. You may need to create an account to access this part of the website.

