

Free governance health check

Is your Board effective?

What is governance and why does it need to be effective?

Governance is the combination of processes and structures implemented by the board in order to inform, direct, manage and monitor the activities of the organisation toward the achievement of its objectives.

According to the Governance Hub Guide (published in 2005), key principles for a successful charity Board are:

- Board Leadership
- The Board in control
- The high performance Board
- Board review and renewal
- Board delegation
- Board and trustee integrity
- The open Board

Equality underpins all these principles.

The guide is due for a revision because of the passage of time and a consultation which took place during 2009. In our view, the quality of the interface and relationship between a Board and its senior management team will determine the success and ability of a charity to achieve its goals and vision.

The SORP on accounting & reporting by charities requires disclosure of information on impact reporting. Charity Boards are responsible for determining the "ends" and the staff team, led by the Chief Executive, is responsible for the "means". If the ends and the means are well planned and articulated, impact reporting should be a natural by product.

Is your governance effective - our free health check

In order to give an assessment of the effectiveness of your charity's governance, we facilitate a structured discussion. It is helpful to involve a selection of people from your senior management team and from your trustee Board.

After our meeting, we will give you an overview of our assessment of your charity's governance. The usual format is a short narrative report with key findings about the current state & a desirable future state with key actions.

We do not typically charge for this initial consultation meeting and report. If there are areas where specific advice is required, we are happy to take instructions.

What are the benefits?

Our discussion will typically generate a lively discussion; provide external insights and comparisons with other charities, and give independent assurances to trustees and senior management teams regarding the key principles.

Funders and the sector regulator judge the effectiveness of governance from a range of indicators. Why not pre-empt their judgment?

To arrange an initial consultation meeting or for further information contact one of our Charity team on 01865 261100