

# Make a Real Difference... become a Trustee

There are an estimated 950,000 trustee positions in the UK, so there are plenty of diverse and interesting opportunities for first time trustees

## Archeology to Yachting

- Photography • Publishing •
- Social History • Archiving •
- Badminton • Sports Coaching •
  - Drama • Arts • Ecology •
  - Forestry • Horticulture •
  - Heritage • Conservation •
- University of the Third Age •  
and many more



See how you can

FAQs >

# FAQs

## Trustees Make a Real Difference

“ They are people like you, sharing their passion, skills & experience for just a few hours - *and getting a real buzz back* ”

**Richard Perry**  
Arun and Chichester CAB Trustee

“In the early part of 2011 I found myself with time on my hands following my decision to take a voluntary redundancy after a career of more than 35 years.

I was keen to use some of my time to support my local community but knew that I didn't want anything that tied me down to a set time each week.

However the prospect of using the skills I had developed during my career was very appealing and becoming a trustee of a local organisation (in my case Arun and Chichester CAB) gives me the opportunity to support a brilliant organisation with great people whilst providing me with a sense of personal satisfaction.”

### “What is a Trustee?”

A trustee, sometimes also called a committee member, governor or board member, is part of a team that steers the management and administration of a charity. The team uses their collective personal skills and knowledge to ensure the charity's aims are met efficiently and that it complies with regulatory legislation.

### “How much time is involved?”

This will depend on your role and availability and should be discussed when you are exploring the opportunities. A trustee is unpaid, giving their time and skills for the benefit of the charity. At certain times of the year you may be needed to help beyond your designated days. Most people expect to give a day a month.

### “Where can I find a charity that needs me? Is there a matching service?”

Your local Volunteer Centre can tell you about opportunities and there are a number of national organisations such as REACH that will match your skills with vacancies. See our back page links.

### “Is there any support out there?”

The Charity Commission has a series of invaluable leaflets all available for downloading. The Charity Trustee Network was formed by a group of trustees who met regularly to discuss their work and were so successful in motivating and increasing confidence of their members that they now host working lunches, lectures, training and an online matching service.

### “Will my own personal assets be at risk?”

All trustees have a duty to act responsibly and prudently in line with the charity's work. It is very rare for individuals to be personally liable and trustees act as a collective. Some charities will provide personal indemnity insurance.

### “What do others do?”

They give a few hours a month to help with archiving, badminton, coaching, drama, eco group, forestry, growing, heritage...and many more through to yachting and zoo management.

Read the stories of some of our volunteer trustees at our website <http://cvs-arunwide.org.uk>

**Joyce Adams**  
Arun Dolphins Swimming Club

“Personally I have gained in confidence; there is always a challenge when you take on something that you have not done before. I had been involved with both disabled and able bodied people through my job as a supervisor where I had to train new staff. That experience has enabled me to listen and understand the everyday problems that may occur in an organisation.

I do not see it as a 'nine to five job' - it is a privilege, and I have had good support from other trustees.”

# Useful links and reading

**The Charity Commission** - registers and regulates charities in England and Wales offering them advice and providing a wide range of services and guidance to help them run as effectively as possible.  
[www.charity-commission.gov.uk/indx.aspx](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/indx.aspx)



[trusteesweek.blogspot.com](http://trusteesweek.blogspot.com)



[www.navca.org.uk](http://www.navca.org.uk)



[www.reachskills.org.uk](http://www.reachskills.org.uk)



[www.trusteenet.org.uk](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk)



**Trustee Bank** - offers a free service to advertise or view trustee vacancies. It also provides information about becoming a trustee and on recruitment and induction practices.  
[www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteebank](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteebank)

**Trustee Unlimited** - you can register your interest in becoming a trustee, and upload your CV where those organisations with vacancies will look. Useful resources and advice in a knowledge bank.  
[www.trustees-unlimited.co.uk](http://www.trustees-unlimited.co.uk) &  
[www.eesi.org.uk](http://www.eesi.org.uk) online support for West Sussex Voluntary groups.

## Elizabeth Williams Sussex Oakleaf Board Member

“I consider my greatest value is in supporting staff members and suggesting possible ways forward as well as encouraging new challenges.”

“A passion for the work of the organisation is most helpful and an essential, is the ability to commit to the steady round of not always exciting meetings! That’s what you’re there for.”



*Supporting Voluntary and Community Groups in Arun District*

[www.cvs-arunwide.org.uk](http://www.cvs-arunwide.org.uk)

