

The Legal Duties of Trustees

Trustees have a legal responsibility under charity law. The Charity Commission sets out rules around governance and conduct for trustees.

Six main legal and regulatory duties of trustees:

- Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- Comply with your charity's governance document and relevant legislation
- Always act in the best interest of your charity
- Manage the resources of your charity in a responsible way
- Act with reasonable care and skill
- Ensure that your charity is accountable

For more information on the Legal Duties of Trustees, see this article from NCVO: [The legal duties of trustees | NCVO](#)

The Charity Commission have published The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know, What You Need to Do, which can be found here: [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Charity Governance Code 2025 is a useful resource covering principles of good governance [Charity Governance Code - Charity Governance Code](#). Updates are expected in 2026.