

SEVEN TIPS FOR TOP TRUSTEES

and the key principles of The Scottish Governance Code

By Davie Campbell - VAO Finance Worker



The Scottish Governance Code was written by and for third sector organisations. It is not a legal requirement but sets out good governance and can be used to see how your board is doing and is a great resource for trustees – new and old. Here are 7 tips to get you started - for the full code visit

www.scvo.scot/support/running-your-organisation/governance/scottish-governance-code-checkup

1 Organisational Purpose

...be clear about your organisation's purpose and values and how it will achieve its aims. How can you deliver these effectively and sustainably?

2 Leadership

...are you clear about your roles and responsibilities? How can you give strategic direction in line with organisational purposes, vision, and values?

3 Behaviour

...do you act with integrity, adopting values and applying ethical principles to decisions, creating a welcoming and supportive culture? Be aware of the significance of the public's confidence and trust in your organisation.

4 Decision Making, Risk & Control

...your board should have decision-making processes that are informed, rigorous and timely. You are part of a board developing and implementing controls to direct and oversee progress and performance in your organisation. Is there effective delegation, risk-assessment and control, with management systems set up and being monitored?

5 Board Effectiveness

...do you understand the role of the board and its powers and duties? Are you part of an effective team, using the appropriate balance of skills, experience, backgrounds and knowledge of all trustees to make informed decisions and achieve organisational purpose?

6 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

...a board and its trustees should have a clear, agreed, and effective approach to supporting equality, diversity, and inclusion in its practices and within the organisation. This approach supports good governance and the delivery of the organisation's charitable purposes.

7 Openness & Accountability

...the board and trustees collectively and individually will lead, embrace and demonstrate mutual respect. Are you and your organisation transparent, open and accountable in your work, unless there is good reason not to be?

VAO can provide information, advice, support and training for trustees, third sector organisations and volunteers, so get in touch if we can help!