



Trustee Academy #1: stay sharp

## **Description**

**Trustees' Learning and Development Programme**

**Finding a better way together through lifelong learning**



Photo by [Manki Kim](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the new MMHS Trustees' learning and development programme. Over the next 12 months we will continue to build up the resources.

I hope you can carve out time to engage with the material on different aspects of governance, designed to help us grow as a board. We want to be the best we can be, as we seek to guide the Society through the years ahead.

Let me share an inspirational story about taking time out from life's daily demands:

*Suppose you were to come upon someone in the woods working feverishly to saw down a tree.*

*'What are you doing?' you ask.*

*'Can't you see?' comes the impatient reply. 'I'm sawing down the tree.'*

*'You look exhausted!' you exclaim. 'How long have you been at it?'*

*'Over five hours,' he returns, 'and I'm exhausted! This is hard work.'*

*'Well, why don't you take a break for a few minutes and sharpen your saw?' you ask. 'I'm sure it would go a lot faster.'*

*'I don't have time to sharpen the saw,' the man says emphatically. 'I'm too busy sawing!'*

Thank you for taking part in our L&D programme.

Alan

## **Legal And Governance**

A definition of governance for charities, developed in 2003, is – 'the systems and processes concerned with the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision and accountability of an organisation' ( *The Governance Of Voluntary Organisations*, C Cornforth).


With all this responsibility comes benefits, one of which is 'acquiring new skills through training and information and sharing; and the enjoyment to be had from working with a group of individuals from different backgrounds who share a similar passion for a particular cause'. This quote is from [The Role And Duties Of Charity Trustees](#) which can be found [here](#).



Guidance note

# The role and duties of charity trustees (England & Wales)

April 2021

Three decorative, curved, overlapping bands in shades of green and teal, positioned in the bottom right corner of the dark blue background.

# CHARITIES SORP (FRS 102)

(second edition - October 2019)

Accounting and Reporting by Charities:  
Statement of Recommended Practice  
applicable to charities preparing their  
accounts in accordance with the Financial  
Reporting Standard applicable in the UK  
and Republic of Ireland

(FRS 102)

(effective 1 January 2019)



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



Secretariat to the Charities SORP



## Finance

Let's have a look at the industry standard for financial practice – [Charities SORP](#) – the document which is a 'go to' resource for lots of general information. Over the year we will be highlighting key matters.

A good starting point is to read pages 37-49 which will help understanding of what goes into a statement of financial activities. The document can be found [here](#).

## Personal Development

The Society has a paid subscription with *Mind Tools*, an online learning and development site. This will give Trustees access to resources on a wide range of personal development topics. Instructions on how to register will be sent out soon.

Over the coming months, selected content in the form of videos, e-learning and skillbooks will be made available on this monthly learning and development bulletin. For this month, you will find useful advice on improving productivity [here](#).

# Skillbook

# Improving Productivity



## Category

1. Bulletins

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