

Public Benefit Requirement

Since 1 April 2008, under the Charities Act 2006, all charities must now 'prove' public benefit and not 'presume' to be for public benefit.

To prove public benefit two principles are required:-

- a. There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits and
- b. Benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The Charity Commission have now issued further guidance in proving public benefit for charities set up for religious, prevention/relief of poverty and educational purposes together with fee charging



charities. Also, the Charity Commission have listed on their website examples of charities meeting their Public Benefit Requirement and detailing the same in their annual Trustees' Report.

Please call us for further advice and guidance and check www.plummer-parsons.co.uk/charity for updates on the Charity Commission's assessments and reports.

A new minister for Third Sector

has been announced – Angela Smith, the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary and MP for Basildon.

The Charity Commission



has recently produced a useful checklist entitled 'The Economic Downturn – 15 Questions Trustees Need to Ask'. The checklist will help stimulate discussion amongst Trustees and at the same time provide a useful structure for planning and developing future actions.

Do you really know what is happening to your charity?

www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/tcc/pdfs/ccnews29check.pdf

UFO's? CIO's still coming but not until 2010

Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO's) are the new corporate structure designed specifically for charities and recommended by the Charity Commission. The CIO will be an alternative to a charitable company, offering limited liability protection but also having charitable status. The Charity Commission have recently announced that despite their detailed review, charities are not expected to be able to register as CIO's until April 2010.

Please let us know if you require further information or need to know the advantages of CIO status for your charity.

WIN an 8Gb iPod Nano

Register on our website and you could win an 8Gb iPod Nano.



Need funding?

Do you have anyone to match your funding?

Visit www.thebiggive.org.uk/millionmatch

NewsLetter...



Income dropping? Expenses increasing? Free review?

As part of our support for charities, we are offering a free consultation to charities to review your affairs and recommend how income can be maximised and costs minimised.

For further information please contact Andrew Griffiths on andrew.griffiths@plummer-parsons.co.uk

Trustees' Report - Are you telling Your Story?

Don't wait until after the end of your accounting year to write your story – keep an up to date record throughout each year of your events, successes, achievements to emphasise the good work that you carry out. Record the information while it is fresh in your mind and not when asked by your accountants/auditors 12 months later.

The Trustees' Report must include all matters as set out in SORP 2005 including your policies on:-

- a. Trustees – Who do you appoint and why, how do you train and monitor them?
- b. Risk – You must review and record the risks of your charity? What controls are in place to minimise/remove risk?
- c. Reserves – Why do you not spend all of your money? You need to justify the funds you reserve for future use.
- d. Investments – What is your investment policy? Maximise growth or maximise income? How do you monitor the performance of your investments?

All of these are important issues that Trustees need to review and report on throughout each year. Remember we are always happy to help you carry out your Trustees' responsibilities.



Gift Aid – Are you using it?

Cannot you use an extra £25 for every £100 donations you receive - £28 until 5/4/11?

Are your claims up to date? At the moment you can claim Gift Aid tax repayments for the past 6 years but after April 2010 you can only go back 4 years.

Let us help you set up and process your Gift Aid claims.

Please address all enquiries, responses and other issues raised by this Newsletter to:

charities@plummer-parsons.co.uk

Email us the details of others who would like to receive this Newsletter.



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