

## **The Key Principles of Good Governance.**

Taken from “Good Governance – A Code for the Voluntary & Community Sector”. Published by NCVO on behalf of *The National Hub of Expertise in Governance*.

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The key principles set out below have been used in the drawing up of this Code, and provide the main headings for its sections. They are set out here not as a part of the Code, but to set the context, and to help with interpretation.

Underlying each of these is the additional principle of equality – that of ensuring equity, diversity and equality of treatment for all sections of the community. We see this as fundamental to the work of all voluntary and community sector organisations; rather than creating a separate ‘Equality’ section, the principle has been used to inform all sections of the Code.

**Board leadership:** Every organisation should be led and controlled by an effective Board of trustees which collectively ensures delivery of its objects; sets its strategic direction and upholds its values.

**The Board in control:** The trustees as a Board should collectively be responsible and accountable for ensuring and monitoring that the organisation is performing well, is solvent, and complies with all its obligations.

**The high performance Board:** The Board should have clear responsibilities and functions, and should compose and organise itself to discharge them effectively.

**Board review and renewal:** The Board should periodically review its own and the organisation’s effectiveness, and take any necessary steps to ensure that both continue to work well.

**Board delegation:** The Board should set out the functions of sub-committees, officers, the chief executive, other staff and agents in clear delegated authorities, and should monitor their performance.

**Board and trustee integrity:** The Board and individual trustees should act according to high ethical standards, and ensure that conflicts of interest are properly dealt with.

**The open Board:** The Board should be open, responsive and accountable to its users, beneficiaries, members, partners and others with an interest in its work

For an electronic copy of the full document “Good Governance – A Code for the Voluntary & Community Sector” visit the website listed above or contact [development@sdvs.org.uk](mailto:development@sdvs.org.uk)