

Agenda

11.00 – Welcome and overview

11.15 – How can we help more people become trustees?

11.45 – Financial accountability

12.15 – Lunch

12.45 – protecting your charity from harm – workshops

13.45 – Questions

14.00 – Close

2 December 2014



Public meeting - Norwich

Sarah Atkinson, Director of Policy and Comms

2 December 2014



Facts about charity

- **164,000** – registered charities
- **418** in Norwich alone
- **4,968** – new registrations in 2013-14

- **3.4 million** – regular volunteers
- **1m** – charity trustees
- **940,000** – charity workers

- **> £64bn** – annual income of registered charities
- **£106bn** – long term investments held by charities

Commission's work to uphold public trust

- our strategic approach
- how we're improving already
- our plans for the months ahead

Charities' role in promoting public trust

- what the public expects of you
- what we expect of you

Context for charity regulation

CHARITY
COMMISSION

Changing public expectations of charity

Demands for greater accountability

Evidence of public giving charities less 'benefit of doubt'

Media focus on charities (e.g. pay, investments)

Increased external scrutiny of Commission

National Audit Office review of CC's work

Public Accounts Committee hearings

Debates in Parliament

Significant cuts to CC funding

CC budget 2013-14 - **£21.4m**

CC budget 2007-8 - **£31.7m**

= c. **50% real terms** cut since 2007.

Recent £8m funding announcement

Our new strategic approach

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“The best way for the Commission to promote public trust and confidence in charities [...] is to concentrate on **promoting compliance** by charity trustees; enhancing the rigour with which we hold charities accountable, and upholding the definition of charity”

Robust regulation in action



- **64** – charities placed under inquiry (15 in 2012-13)
- **540** – use of legal powers in investigative work (216 in 2012-13)
- **Regulatory alerts** – e.g. recent alert on reporting serious incidents.

More proactive approach



Operations / registrations

- New operations monitoring team
- 318 referrals, including **89** from registrations (betw. October 2013 & April 2014)

Accounts monitoring

- Casework related and themed accounts reviews
- **1,664** sets of accounts reviewed

Smarter, more focused guidance

- Clearer focus on expectations of trustees
- E.g. new Conflicts of Interest guidance

Greater transparency

Greater openness about statutory inquiries

- announcing inquiries when its in the public interest
- marking open inquiries against charities' online entry

Reports of operational cases

What we need to do now...

Risk

- Better use of **data**
- **Targeting** work where it makes greatest impact
- Supporting increasingly **proactive** approach to case work

Digitisation

- **Digitising** front-end services
- **Streamlining** low risk customer-facing services
= recognising charities are our customers

Structure

- Recruiting 6-strong senior management team
- Skills and talent management agenda

What does this mean for smaller charities?

- **Over 40% of charities £0 to £10,000 and 33% £10,000 to £100,000**
- **So we must**
 - **Be proportionate – trustees are volunteers**
 - **Provide high quality guidance to be clear on trustee responsibilities**
 - **Listen**
 - **Be there for charities when needed**

Over to you...

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What can **you** do to promote
public trust in charity?

Show integrity



Have trustees:

- acted within their powers?
- acted in good faith and only in interests of charity?
- adequately informed themselves
- taken into account all relevant factors, disregarded irrelevant factors?
- managed conflicts of interest?
- made decisions within range of decisions that reasonable trustee body would make?

Be accountable



“It is important to me that charities provide the public with information about how they spend their money”

96% of those asked agree

Final thought...



“Charities play an essential, very or fairly important role in society”

96% of those asked agree

Thank you

2 December 2014

