

# Being a Trustee for Beyond The Horizon Charity

The time I spend supporting Beyond the Horizon as a trustee is very precious to me. The role is voluntary: I do not get paid, I choose to do it because I am rewarded in many other ways.

My primary role is one of support and guidance, like a critical friend. As a trustee, we are expected to review documents that govern the charity in preparation to discuss at trustee meetings, and these meetings happen quarterly. In addition to formal trustee meetings, depending on our professional and personal skills, there are also opportunities to provide additional support.

So being a trustee is not for the faint-hearted or disorganised! The information we are privy to affects many lives, the children and their families we are so very keen to help as well as the employment of our paid staff and commitment to suppliers. We must also remember the legal obligations of running a small business, albeit a business that isn't commercial.

**So what is a typical activity for me as a trustee?** Well the other day I was asked to review the



latest budget which provided an up to date position on where the charity is financially so far this year. We constantly need to be thinking about what money is in the bank, what bills need to be paid and long will the money last. Our CEO prepares this information and we are there to review the details and raise any concerns. Its like being a sounding board, a confidante to our CEO - I just hope I am useful! Another example is finding and advising on fundraising opportunities, as I work within the fundraising sector. I've just written my first application to a charitable trust, wish me luck please on a successful outcome!

