

The Good Trustee Guide

# What is a charity?

Easy Read



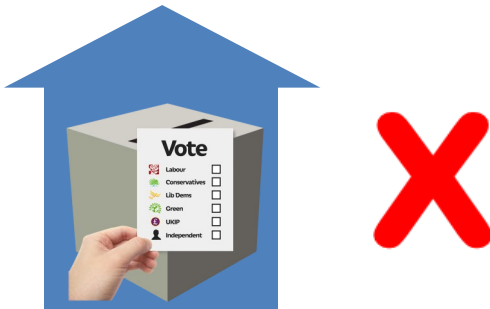
**NCA**  
**CHAMPIONING  
VOLUNTARY  
ACTION**

# What is in this guide



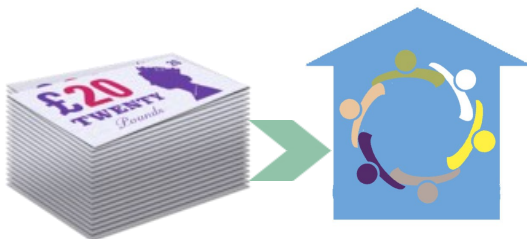
What a charity  
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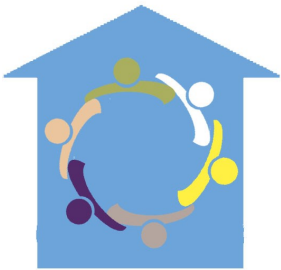
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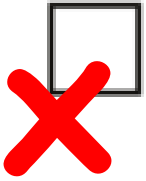
Charities and  
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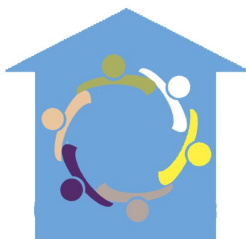
# What a charity does



A charity is an organisation that tries to help.



Helping to make things better is the only thing a charity is allowed to do.



There is a law called the Charities Act 2011.



The law tells us the different things a charity can do to help.



Charities can help by making something better



- Like helping people to be more healthy.



They can help by stopping something bad happening



- Like stopping people being cruel to animals.



They can give support to people in need



- Like helping sick people.



Charities must be able to show that they do not do any harm.



They must be able to show who they are helping.



CHARITY  
COMMISSION



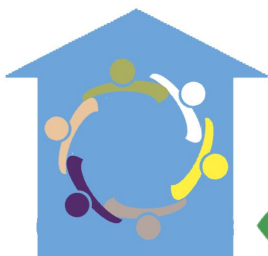
The law says there has to be a group called the **Charity Commission**.



CHARITY  
COMMISSION



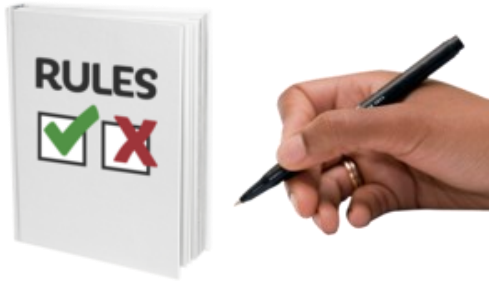
The government run the **Charity Commission**.



The **Charity Commission** helps charities do what the law says.



The law says every charity has to have a set of rules.



Every charity writes its own set of rules.



The rules say what the charity will do to help.

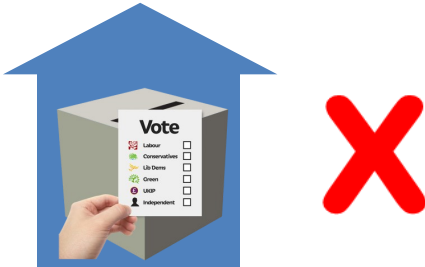


The rules say how the charity will be run.

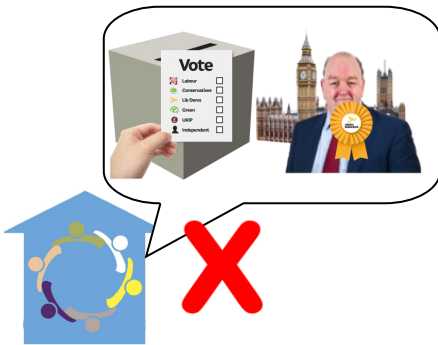


The rules say how the charity will make choices.

# Charities and politics



Taking part in politics must not be a reason to start a charity.



A charity must never tell people who to vote for in a government election.

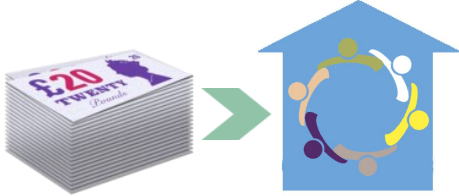


A charity must not give money to help someone win an election.



A charity can ask the government to change the law, but only if it helps the charity to do its work.

# Charities and money



Charities need money to do their work.



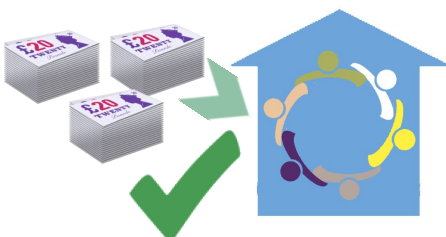
Sometimes a charity might make money from the work they do.



Sometimes the charity might make extra money.



The people who run the charity should not keep the extra money for themselves.



The extra money must be used to do the work of the charity.

This easy read guide has been adapted from The Good Trustee Guide by NCVO

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