

King George's Field Trust (KGFT) **Charity Commission's Public Benefit Guidance**

About public benefit

All charity trustees have a duty to 'have regard' to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

As a charity trustee, this means being able to show that:

- you are aware of the guidance
- you have taken it into account when making a decision to which the guidance is relevant
- if you have decided to depart from the guidance, you have a good reason for doing so

The public benefit requirement has two aspects:

To satisfy the 'benefit aspect'

To satisfy the benefit aspect:

- the charity's purpose must be beneficial – in an identifiable way and capable of being proved by evidence where necessary and which is not based on personal views
- any detriment or harm that results from the purpose (to people, property or the environment) must not outweigh the benefit - this is also based on evidence and not on personal views

The 'public aspect'

To satisfy the 'public aspect' the purpose must:

- benefit the public in general, or a sufficient section of the public
- not give rise to more than incidental personal benefit - personal benefit is 'incidental' where (having regard both to its nature and to its amount) it is a necessary result or by-product of carrying out the purpose

It is the trustees responsibility to ensure that the King George's Field Mile End Charity and King George's Field -Stepney (Tredegar Square, Bow) charity in a way that carries out its purposes for the public benefit. This means, you should

Make decisions :

- i) **to ensure your charity's purpose provides benefit** - understanding how the purpose is beneficial and carrying it out so as to benefit the public in that way.
- ii) **to manage risks of detriment or harm to your charity's beneficiaries or to the public in general that might result from carrying out the purpose** - identifying risks of harm, minimising the risks and making sure that any harm that might arise is a minor consequence of carrying out the purpose.

- iii) about who benefits in ways that are consistent with the purpose**
Knowing who can potentially benefit from the purpose and giving proper consideration to the full range of ways in which you could carry out your charity's purpose.

iv) Make decisions to make sure any personal benefits are no more than incidental

This means making sure that any personal benefits people receive (having regard both to its nature and to its amount) are no more than a necessary result or by-product of carrying out the purpose.

You must make decisions that are within the range of decisions that trustees could properly make in those particular circumstances. Provided that you do that, then you will have made a 'right' decision.

This means that, as a charity trustee, you generally have a choice about how to carry out your charity's purposes, provided that you exercise your discretion in a way which:

- is in accordance with your charity's purpose (so not operating outside of that purpose)
- is for the public benefit
- has regard to the commission's public benefit guidance where relevant
- is in accordance with the general framework for [trustee decision making](#)

Report on public benefit

The trustees' annual report must explain how you have carried out its purpose for the public benefit. A detailed report is only required if your charity's gross income exceeds £500,000; otherwise a brief summary is all that's needed.

You must also state whether you and the other trustees had due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.