

SLCVO

Trustee

Information Pack

Help shape the future of
communities across
Skye and Lochalsh



SLCVO Skye and Lochalsh Council
for Voluntary Organisations

Join a welcoming organisation working with local communities, voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises and volunteers across Skye and Lochalsh.

As an SLCVO Trustee, you can contribute your skills, knowledge and experience to help local communities thrive.

Could you help shape what comes next?

You do not need previous board experience. What matters most is a commitment to SLCVO's values and a willingness to support local communities.

About SLCVO

Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) is a locally based registered charity and company limited by guarantee that supports communities, voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises and volunteers across Skye and Lochalsh.

First established in 1949, SLCVO has a long history of supporting and enabling our communities to come together to address local needs. Over the years we have been instrumental in the establishment of many local initiatives that have grown into organisations and charities that still thrive today, including:- Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association, Radio Skye, Crossroads Care Skye and Lochalsh, Skye and Lochalsh Citizens Advice Bureau, Skye Older Peoples Welfare and Kyleakin Connections.

Our charitable purpose is to advance citizenship and community development by:

- Promoting volunteering and community participation
- Supporting charities and community organisations to be effective and sustainable
- Encouraging rural and urban regeneration
- Helping communities identify local needs and develop solutions
- Working in partnership to improve services and opportunities for local people

What SLCVO does

SLCVO delivers a range of services and initiatives that strengthen communities and support local organisations.

Service	What it provides
Third Sector Support	Advice, information, governance support, training and organisational development for local charities, community groups and social enterprises.

Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Collaboration	Support for third sector organisations, communities and public sector partners to develop innovative approaches to health, wellbeing and social care.
Befrienders Skye and Lochalsh	A voluntary befriending service helping people experiencing loneliness and social isolation to build meaningful social connections.
Community Outreach Hubs	Working with partners to bring information, support services and community activities directly into local communities across Skye and Lochalsh.

Why Become a Trustee?

As a Trustee, you can make a real difference to people and communities across Skye and Lochalsh.

You do not need previous board experience. What matters most is a commitment to SLCVO's values and a willingness to contribute your skills, knowledge and experience to support local communities.

Being a Trustee is an opportunity to:

- Influence the future direction of SLCVO
- Help strengthen local communities
- Support important local services
- Develop leadership and governance experience
- Contribute to strategic decision making
- Build relationships with community, public and third sector leaders
- Represent the interests of Skye and Lochalsh at local and regional meetings and events

The Role of the Board

The Board of Directors are also the Charity Trustees of SLCVO. They are responsible for ensuring the organisation is well governed, financially sustainable and delivering public benefit.

The Board's role is to:

- Set the strategic direction of the organisation
- Protect and promote SLCVO's values and objectives
- Monitor organisational performance
- Oversee finances and resources
- Manage risk
- Ensure legal and regulatory compliance
- Support and oversee the Chief Officer
- Protect the reputation of the organisation
- Ensure services meet community need and deliver impact

Governance and leadership

The Board focuses on governance and strategic leadership rather than day-to-day operational management, which is delegated to the Chief Officer and staff team.

Trustee Responsibilities

All Trustees have legal duties under charity and company law. These include:

Acting in the Best Interests of SLCVO

Trustees must always act in the interests of the organisation and its charitable purposes rather than representing personal interests or those of any organisation they may be connected with.

Governance and Compliance

Trustees are responsible for ensuring SLCVO complies with:

- Charity law
- Company law
- OSCR requirements
- Financial regulations
- Funding conditions
- Policies and procedures

Financial Stewardship

Trustees oversee:

- Annual budgets
- Financial performance
- Risk management
- Reserves
- Assets and property
- Long-term financial sustainability

Strategic Leadership

Trustees help shape priorities, identify opportunities and ensure the organisation remains relevant and responsive to community needs.

Working Collectively

Decisions are made collectively by the Board. Trustees support constructive discussion, challenge where appropriate and contribute positively to decision making.

Who Are We Looking For?

We are looking for people who care about the future of communities across Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh.

You do not need previous trustee experience. We welcome people who can bring professional expertise, community knowledge, volunteering experience, lived experience, or a fresh perspective.

We are particularly interested in people with knowledge, experience or an interest in:

- Rural communities and the opportunities and challenges they face
- Community development and community-led action
- Culture, heritage, arts and creative organisations
- Community facilities, village halls and local community assets
- Health, wellbeing and social care
- Environmental sustainability and climate action
- Social enterprise, community business and innovation

We also value people who can contribute:

- A willingness to ask questions and provide constructive challenge
- A commitment to fairness, inclusion and ensuring community voices are heard
- An ability to consider different perspectives and make balanced decisions
- An ability to build relationships and bring people together

Most importantly, we are looking for people who are passionate about strengthening communities, understand the realities of living and working in rural and island areas, and want to help voluntary and community organisations thrive for future generations.

First-time trustees and younger applicants are especially encouraged to apply. We are committed to supporting people new to board roles and believe that fresh perspectives and new voices make our organisation stronger.

Time Commitment

Board meetings are normally held every two months and can be attended either in person or online.

The Chief Officer leads the day-to-day operations of SLCVO, supported by a team of staff. Trustees are provided with a range of operational, financial and governance reports in advance of each Board meeting, giving them time to review the information and prepare for discussion. Board meetings typically last around 90 minutes.

The Chief Officer administers Board meetings, prepares agendas, circulates papers, records minutes and supports follow-up actions, enabling Trustees to focus on their strategic leadership and governance responsibilities.

Where private discussions are required, the Chair will arrange these separately and ensure appropriate records are maintained. This allows the Board to provide oversight, direction and constructive challenge while remaining focused on the organisation's long-term vision and priorities.

Trustees may also be invited to:

- Attend the Annual General Meeting
- Join short-life working groups
- Contribute to strategic discussions
- Represent SLCVO at meetings and events
- Participate in occasional training sessions

Typical commitment; Approximately 2-4 hours per month.

"As a new trustee, I found the Board and Chief Officer incredibly supportive. They helped me develop my confidence and leadership skills, My journey from trustee to Chair has given me opportunities to represent SLCVO at regional forums and contribute to decisions that make a real difference to local communities."

Siobhan Barker, Chair, SLCVO

Looking to the Future

SLCVO is entering an exciting period of development and change.

Our three key strategic priorities are:

Strategic priority	Our focus
Financial Sustainability	Developing diverse income streams and ensuring long-term organisational stability and resilience.
Community-Led Service Delivery	Supporting third sector groups that respond directly to community needs. Expanding our services including community outreach and social care innovation.
Sector Leadership and Innovation	Strengthening our role as the voice of the third sector in Skye and Lochalsh and influencing future policy and service development.

Over the coming years the Board will play an important role in:

- Responding to major changes in health and social care
 - Supporting community-led solutions
 - Advocating for local charities and community groups
 - Reviewing future opportunities for SLCVO assets and services
 - Strengthening community resilience and representation
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What Will You Gain?

Serving as an SLCVO Trustee is an excellent personal and professional development opportunity.

You will gain experience in:

Governance and Leadership	• Charity governance • Company governance • Strategic leadership • Board decision making
Finance	• Budget oversight • Financial reporting • Risk management • Reserves planning
Policy and Influence	• Community planning • Health and social care reform • Third sector development • Partnership working
Personal Development	• Confidence in leadership roles • Public speaking • Critical thinking • Collaboration and negotiation • Strategic planning

Trustees also receive:

- Induction training
- Ongoing support from the Chief Officer
- Access to governance guidance and resources
- Opportunities to attend local and regional events
- Opportunities to build networks across the third, public and community sectors

Interested in Joining Us?

If you would like an informal discussion about becoming an SLCVO Trustee, please contact:

**Skye & Lochalsh Council for
Voluntary Organisations,**

Jo-Anne Ford, Chief Officer

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