A charity board (also known as governing body, board of trustees, management committee) is responsible for the governance, strategic direction and ensuring legal obligations are met within an organisation. *But without supportive challenge, how do you effect change?*

In board meetings, charity boards only see what they’re presented with and can become passive recipients of agendas. *How aware are you really of what’s happening in the charity you’re governing?*

Trustees can play a transformational role by asking questions that consider reflection and strategic change. By creating a structure for dialogue, trustees are allowed to be respectful disruptors in board meetings.

Below is a list of the main questions taken from the Charity Commission’s guidance – [Charity governance, finance and resilience: 15 questions trustees should ask](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-trustee-meetings-15-questions-you-should-ask)

(Strategy)

1. What effect is the current economic climate having on our charity and its activities?

(Finances)

1. Are we financially strong enough to continue to provide services for our beneficiaries?
2. Do we know what impact the social and/or economic climate is having on our donors and support for our charity?
3. What is our policy on reserves?
4. Are we satisfied with our banking arrangements and our current and future investment policy?
5. Have we reviewed our contractual commitments?
6. Have we reviewed any contracts to deliver public services?
7. If we have a pension scheme, have we reviewed it recently?
8. How can we best make use of any permanent endowment investments we hold?

(Governance)

1. Are we an effective trustee body?
2. Do we have adequate safeguards in place to prevent fraud?

(Resources)

1. Are we making the best use of the financial benefits we have as a charity?
2. Are we making the best use of our staff and volunteers?
3. Have we considered collaborating with other charities?
4. Are we making the best use we can of our property?

It can take time to create a new normal concerning how the board operates. The key is to have an open mind, be curious and ask questions to understand context, risks, challenges, and opportunities.

*Remember: If you always do what you’ve done, you’ll always get what you’ve got.*