There are many ways to apply your passion to a cause.

Before committing to anything it’s important to be honest about the skills you have and how you can address any gaps.

Alternatives to setting up a Charity:

**Fundraise for an existing charity.**

* Anyone can fundraise for a favourite charity or on behalf of a specific charity campaign.
* Often a personal attachment to a cause drives the fundraising effort.
* Fundraising raises awareness and allows a charity to share its message and goals with the wider community.
* Networking opportunities can lead to effective collaboration for larger projects that have the potential to benefit a greater number of people.

**Volunteer**

* Volunteering doesn’t have to be a long-term commitment.
* It allows you to connect to the community and make it a better place.
* It broadens your support network, exposes you to people with common interests, resources and fulfilling activities.
* Volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice skills in the workplace and gain experience in an area of interest.

**A Community Interest Company (CIC) -** a special type of limited company which exists to benefit the community.

* The directors of a CIC can be paid.
* Generally quicker and simpler to set up than a registered charity.
* Doesn’t qualify for charity tax relief.
* Fundraising is possible but more difficult.

**A named fund**

* Leaves and ongoing legacy for the community or to honour someone.
* Donors can make decisions on what kind of causes they wish to support.
* It can be immediate grant-making or investments for long-term giving.

Considerations before setting up a charity:

**Choosing to become a charity.**

* Many charitable trusts and foundations, businesses and corporations will only give to registered charities.
* The public perceives registered charities as being more credible than those which are not registered which may help attract more volunteers and benefit fundraising efforts.
* Charity law imposes high standards of regulation and bureaucracy.
* Trustees are not allowed to receive financial benefits from the charity they manage unless this is specifically authorised by the governing document of the charity or by the Charity Commission.