

PRESS RELEASE

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All charities should develop their own code of ethics, says Institute of Business Ethics

21st June 2018 : A new IBE briefing focuses on the impact of scandals on the charity sector and the ethical issues that charities must now address.

“Charities have been rocked by major scandals in 2018,” says Philippa Foster Back CBE, IBE’s Director. *“Recent events demonstrate that existing for the public good does not absolve charities from tackling the significant and complex ethical issues facing today’s organisations.”*

All charities – large or small, domestic or international – should ensure that, as a starting point, they have their own code of ethics, says the IBE Briefing.

A charity’s code should not just provide guidance for trustees (as recommended by the Charity Governance Code), but also for employees, volunteers and other stakeholders.

The IBE supports the work of NCVO in developing a code for the sector but recommends each charity develops their own. A code of ethics should reflect the unique needs and aims of their organisation, their individual circumstances, history, values, culture and scope.

“A code sets out an organisation’s commitment to its key stakeholders in terms of conduct. Even very small charities would benefit from having a code, which does not need to be a long or complex document,” says Philippa Foster Back. *“Given our experience, the IBE is ready to help.”*

The Briefing identifies key ethical issues which charities need to address in order to maintain their social license to operate:

- Safeguarding
- Bullying & Harassment
- Transparency
- Referencing Systems
- Speaking Up (whistleblowing)
- Executive Pay

“Charities are an important part of the UK economy and have a significant role in society,” says Philippa Foster Back. *“But they are reliant on trust to operate successfully. A code of ethics and supporting ethics programme will help charities provide guidance to staff to help maintain that trust.”*

#charityethics

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For further information, or to organise interviews or Op-Eds please contact Katherine Bradshaw, Head of Communications, k.bradshaw@ibe.org.uk

EDITOR'S NOTES

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The Institute of Business Ethics

The Institute of Business Ethics, whose purpose is to promote high standards of business behaviour based on ethical values, is an important partner to any business wanting to preserve its long-term reputation by doing business in the right way.

For over 30 years, the IBE has advised organisations on how to strengthen their ethical culture by sharing knowledge and good practice, resulting in relationships with employees and stakeholders that are based on trust.

The IBE is a registered charity funded by corporate and individual subscriptions. www.ibe.org.uk @ibeuk

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