

New Thinking on Governance:

A seminar to provoke discussion and debate

3rd June 2008, 4.30 pm to 7.00pm

Venue: 28 Portland Place, London W1B 1DE

• ***Aims***

Many organisations in the Third Sector have trustee bodies with a mix of professionally skilled council members together with representatives of the particular cause or user group. For some, it is a requirement of their charter that this mix be present. But it does not always provide the best model or the best quality of governance. Trustees work effectively to deliver their roles – but the tensions that sometimes arise are usually not discussed.

We at *.helios* work with organisations in which these structures occur. The challenges are always about the behavioural issues that need to be addressed rather than the hard structures. This short seminar aims to share our experiences and insights and to encourage the dissemination of knowledge and good practice.

• ***Issues to Address***

The sector is trying to be both representative and professionally skilled in charity governance and we will look at the behaviours as well as the structures that address the needed balance. We will be exploring methods that avoid the pitfalls of trying to make trustee boards all things to all people. We will distinguish between those that are held accountable and those that might have powerful influence and how structures may evolve that can accommodate both. This will cover the need for checks and balances, the roles of the Chair and perhaps of a President, voting mechanisms and the importance key sub-committees.

• ***Who Should Attend?***

The seminar is aimed at bring together a very limited number of Chairs and Chief Executives for confidential discussions in in open forum and in smaller breakout groups.

The seminar will have as its keynote speakers one Chair and two Chief Executives who will outline their views and set the scene for the subsequent discussions. The seminar will be held under the Chatham House rule.