

Comparing a Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation Trust with an Independently Registered Charitable Trust

Comparing a Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation Trust with an Independently Registered Charitable Trust. If your client is considering setting up a charitable trust, they may wish to consider setting one up through the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation (BLCF) which is a simple and practical alternative to registering a charitable trust independently with the charity regulator or commission.

Setting up a Trust through BLCF is a low cost and tax-efficient way to give to charity and, as a Trust owner, individuals have full control over where donations are

made. Trusts can be established with a lump sum, regular or annual payments, or by a sum of capital in the form of an endowment.

Contact

To find out more about how we can help you to help your clients, please contact Fozia Irfan at fozia.irfan@blcf.org or Warwick Browning at warwick.browning@blcf.org.uk or call us on 01234 834930.

	Setting up a charitable Trust	Establishing a fund through BLCF
SET-UP PROCEDURE	Must register as a charity and apply to the Charity Commission. Must appoint a Board of Trustees.	Simple agreement.
TIME FRAME	May take weeks or months	Can be set up within 24-48 hours.
INVESTMENT, AUDIT ACCOUNTING AND TAX	Tax status covered by registration with the Charity Commission. Must fulfil financial and administrative requirements and may incur professional fee costs.	BLCF handles all financial and administrative management, arranges audit and reports to the Charity Commission. Tax status is covered under BLCF's charity status.
REPORTING TO AUTHORITIES	The donor/trustees must maintain all financial records, prepare accounts, and submit to the Charity Commission.	BLCF takes care of reporting to the Charity Commission, particularly the Annual Report and Accounts.
GRANT MAKING SERVICE, EXPERTISE, ADMINISTRATION AND FOLLOW UP	Donor responsible for own grant making process, administration and overseeing. Must research and check activities and status of all recipient organisations; has ultimate say in all grant decisions.	Professional staff available to help identify and assess grantees, provide input on community needs, and ensure follow up with recipients and reports back to donor. BLCF verifies activities and status of all potential grantees. Donors can be involved as much or as little as they choose in the grant making process. BLCF Trustees approval is required for all grants.
PHILANTHROPY ADVICE	Donors/Trustees responsible for own giving strategy.	BLCF provides full charitable giving and grant making know-how to ensure the donor maximises the impact of their fund.
DONOR CONTROL	Donor appoints Board of Trustees to control all aspects of grant making and investment.	Trustees of BLCF take on legal and fiscal responsibility for the donor's fund, while the donor chooses grants to organisations vetted by BLCF.
DONATIONS	Often restricted to registered charities.	To both registered and non-registered community groups.
PRIVACY	The Charitable Trust must keep public records.	Anonymity of donor can be maintained if desired. If the donor wishes, BLCF can serve as a mediator between donor and grant seekers.
PROFILE	Responsible for own records.	BLCF can help the donor as much or as little as they want. We can raise the donor's profile in the community by making grants in the donor's name and featuring the donor in publications.
GEOGRAPHY	Donor/Trustees determine their geographical reach.	BLCF operates across Bedfordshire but partners with other UK Community Foundations on the delivery of regional and national initiatives which may be of interest to donors.
NETWORKING	Must find own network and information sources.	BLCF connects donors to a variety of groups and issues in the community and connects like-minded donors through events and initiatives.