

Charity Leadership Afternoon: From Governance to Growth

Dundee | 18th June 2026

We extend a warm welcome to all attendees of our Charity Leadership Afternoon, presented by **Sarah Brown Charity Law WS**, **Rathbones Investment Management** and **TrusteeConnect**.

Today's Programme.

2.00pm **Welcome**

Sessions

Fiona Gillespie – [Rathbones Investment Management](#)

Investing – key considerations for charities.

Mark Wilson - [TrusteeConnect](#)

Who's Around The Table? - Building Stronger Boards for a Changing World.

Sarah Brown - [Sarah Brown Charity Law WS](#)

Governance in 2026 – what's changed and what's not

3.05pm **Break/Networking**

3.20pm **Panel Session – Chaired by Sarah Brown**

Mark Wilson

David Dorward

Elaine Alsop

4.30pm **Close**

Page 2 – 3 Today's Hosts

Page 4 -5 – Today's Expert Panel

Page 5 – Useful Links

Today's Hosts



Fiona Gillespie is Head of Charities Scotland at Rathbones Investment Management, leading the firm's work with charities, endowments, and foundations across the country. She has over 25 years' experience advising charities and managing investment portfolios to help meet their long-term financial and mission objectives.

Fiona is an active trustee across a range of organisations, including several grant-making charities. She is Chair of the Audit & Investment Committee at Medical Research Scotland and a former board member of Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS).

She regularly delivers training for trustees—particularly within smaller, community-led charities—helping to demystify investment and strengthen governance. Fiona brings a practical, transparent, and values-led perspective to her work with the sector.

✉ Fiona.Gillespie@rathbones.com  [Fiona Gillespie | LinkedIn](#)



Mark Wilson is Co-Founder of TrusteeConnect, a platform that helps voluntary, community, and not-for-profit organisations find skilled professionals for their volunteer boards, while supporting those individuals through training and peer learning.

With an MBA and over 28 years in senior-level recruitment, Mark understands the challenges of attracting the right board members. He is Chair of Pilton Youth and Children's Project and has over 14 years' voluntary sector experience, including service on the Children's Panel.

✉ mark@trustee-connect.com  [Mark Wilson | LinkedIn](#)



Andrew Murphy is Co-Founder of TrusteeConnect, a platform helping charities and not-for-profit organisations connect with skilled professionals interested in trustee and board roles.

With a background in senior finance recruitment, Andrew has spent over 19 years helping organisations identify and engage senior talent. Through TrusteeConnect, he is focused on making board recruitment more accessible, proactive and skills-led, while encouraging more professionals to consider trusteeship as a meaningful way to contribute to the third sector.

✉ andrew@trustee-connect.com  [Andrew Murphy | LinkedIn](#)

Sarah Brown Charity Law_{WS}

LEGAL • GOVERNANCE • TRAINING



Sarah Brown – Solicitor & Accredited Specialist in Charity Law, Sarah Brown Charity Law WS

Sarah is only one of only seven solicitors in Scotland accredited as a specialist in charity law by the Law Society of Scotland.

Sarah's career includes being a former partner at J & H Mitchell WS, where she latterly led the Charities and Communities department. Sarah is known for her expertise in setting up, modernising, and reorganising charity structures, providing clear and practical advice tailored to each charity's needs.

Sarah has built a significant portfolio of charity clients across various sectors and has extensive experience in charity governance. Sarah frequently delivers training sessions for charities, speaks at industry events, and leads webinars. She also serves on the Board of three charities and contributes to working parties on charity law issues.



sarah@sarahbrowncharitylaw.com



[Sarah Brown WS | LinkedIn](#)

Today's Expert Panel



Mark Wilson is Co-Founder of TrusteeConnect, a platform that helps voluntary, community, and not-for-profit organisations find skilled professionals for their volunteer boards, while supporting those individuals through training and peer learning.

With an MBA and over 28 years in senior-level recruitment, Mark understands the challenges of attracting the right board members. He is Chair of Pilton Youth and Children's Project and has over 14 years' voluntary sector experience, including service on the Children's Panel.



[Mark Wilson | LinkedIn](#)



Elaine Alsop is a chartered accountant working solely with charities and other third sector organisations for 20 years. She advises small to medium-sized charities on a wide range of finance and governance issues, including annual reporting and independent examination. She particularly enjoys working closely with trustees to support them in meeting their responsibilities by making charity finance more accessible.

She is the co-author of the 6th edition Charity Treasurer's Handbook, published by the Directory of Social Change, and is currently working on its update due to the recent regulatory and accounting changes.

Elaine is a Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners, holds the ICAEW Diploma in Charity Accounting and has an MSc in Charity Resource Management. In addition to running her accountancy practice, Elaine is the finance manager of a local charity supporting children and a trustee of a women's charity.



[Elaine Alsop | LinkedIn](#)



David Dorward has made a significant contribution to the charitable and community sector in Dundee over the past decade.

Following his retirement from local government, David founded Dundee Bairns in 2016, a charity established to address child poverty and "holiday hunger" in the city. In seven years, the charity has delivered over 500,000 meals. Dundee Bairns now has 11 staff and offers an extensive range of support services to children and families in Dundee. The organisation has continued to evolve to provide wider, targeted support to families in areas of deprivation.

In 2015, David was appointed Associate Director of the Rank Foundation, where he supported community-based initiatives, including a programme of funded projects in Dundee.

David has also been involved with Launch It Trust Dundee since 2019, a charity that supports young people to develop business ideas and move into employment or enterprise.

David currently serves as Chair of Dundee United Community Trust and Alexanders Community Development, and is a Trustee of Leisure and Culture Dundee. He also sits on The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland Committee, contributing to decisions on funding to support communities across Scotland.

Alongside his charitable work, David had a distinguished career of over 40 years in Scottish local government. He was appointed Director of Finance at Dundee City Council in 1995 and went on to serve as Chief Executive from 2009 until his retirement in November 2014.

David has also contributed to civic life in Dundee and was appointed as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the City of Dundee in 2018. In recognition of his services to children and families, he was awarded an MBE in 2020, and in 2024 he received an Honorary Doctorate from Abertay University



[David Dorward MBE | LinkedIn](#)

Useful Links

- [OSCR](#) – The Scottish Charity Regulator
- [Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector](#)
- [Volunteer Scotland](#) - Volunteer resources
- [Funding Scotland](#) - funding search engine
- [Good Moves](#) – Third Sector recruitment including Trustees and volunteers
- [SCVO](#) – Resources and training
- [Third Force News](#) – Third Sector Magazine
- [Fundraising Regulator](#) – UK Fundraising Practice Code
- [Charity Tax Group](#) – Information on charity tax and reliefs
- [TrusteeConnect](#) – Trustee recruitment
- [GovernanceWiki](#) - a free open resource for voluntary organisations and social enterprises operating in Scotland
- [Charity Excellence - Find Funding, Free Help & Resources](#)
- [Disagreeing Well | About UCL](#)
- [risk-governance-for-charities_web.pdf](#)

Cyber Security, Digital and AI

- [Home | Third Sector Lab](#)
- [NCSC Small Charity Guide](#)
- [Cyber resilience – SCVO](#)
- [Third Sector - Cyber Scotland](#)
- [How to use generative AI responsibly - SCVO](#)
- [Charity Excellence - AI Ready For Charities](#)
- [Library of AI experiments - CAST](#)
- [Artificial intelligence | ICO](#)