

What is a Charitable Purpose?

The 2006 Charities Act says that, in order to be a charity, an organisation must have purposes that are recognised as charitable in law and must be able to demonstrate that it exists to benefit the public in some way:

The new list has 12 specific headings and one general heading. This last general heading keeps within the scope of charity everything which is currently charitable but which may not be covered by any of the 12 specific headings. In that way, all 13 headings together cover everything that is charitable. The list is:

1. The prevention or relief of poverty;
2. The advancement of education;
3. The advancement of religion;
4. The advancement of health or the saving of lives;
5. The advancement of citizenship or community development;
6. The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science;
7. The advancement of amateur sport;
8. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation, or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity;
9. The advancement of environmental protection or improvement;
10. The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage;
11. The advancement of animal welfare;
12. The promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown, or of the efficiency of the police, fire and rescue services or ambulance services; and
13. Other purposes that are currently recognised as charitable or are in the spirit of any purposes currently recognised as charitable.