

BEING A CURIOUS TRUSTEE

Charlie Cox



ABOUT ME

- Imposter
- Passionate
- Curious
- Operational thinker

AGENDA

1. How do you know your charity is successful?
2. What are our barriers to curiosity?
3. How can we be more curious as a trustee?
4. How to build a curious Board?

AS A TRUSTEE, HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHARITY IS SUCCESSFUL?

IMPACT

GOVERNANCE

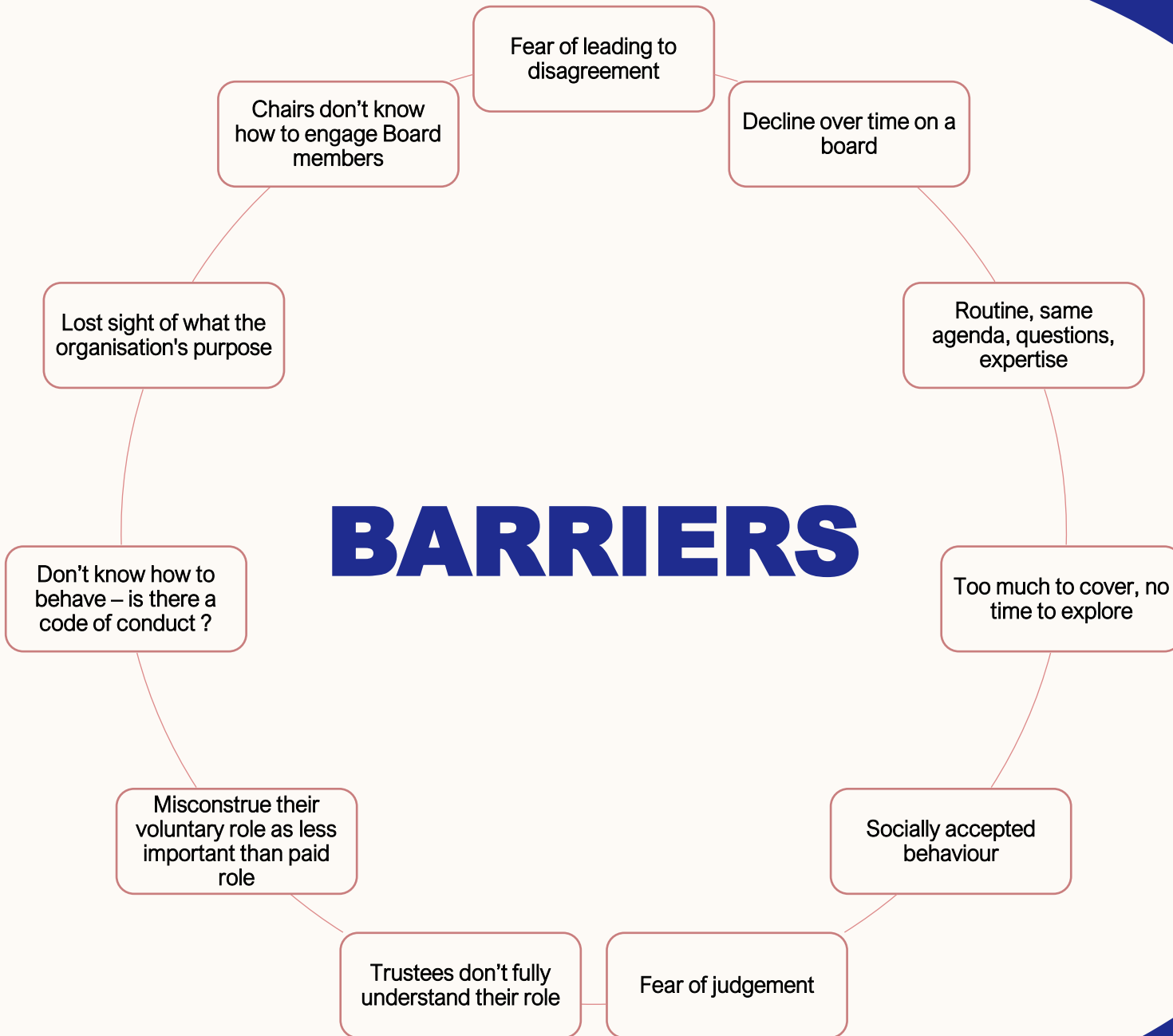
PURPOSE & VALUES

QUALITY



WHAT ARE OUR BARRIERS TO CURIOSITY?

BARRIERS



HOW CAN WE BE MORE CURIOUS AS A TRUSTEE?

- Get to know your charity, volunteers and staff
- Engage in outside reading from different sources to expand our thinking
- Pre-read Board packs and bring questions with you
- Consider the bigger reason why you're there and the role that you're playing. In the boardroom you're there to act in the best interests of the organisation in the long term, ensuring that it can continue to serve its community.
- Ask yourself: What is the worst that can happen? And, if that was to happen, how quickly could you recover from it?
- Be honest about the cost of inaction. Doing or saying nothing is rarely the best way to deal with an uncomfortable situation, and could lead to negative long term effects.
- Hold yourself accountable for your performance. Assess your boardroom performance after the meeting. Were you courageous and brave? Do you feel that you asked the right questions at the right time in the right way? Did it get the outcome expected and / or desired? Why / why not? What can you replicate / do differently next time?
- Find a role model who you can observe or learn from in order to keep improving the quality of questions that you ask in the boardroom (or other professional setting).

HOW TO BUILD A CURIOUS BOARD?

- 6 thinking hats
- Understand baseline for fundamentals to cover all basis
- Re-visiting purpose, why? (Simon Sinek)
- Build trust as a Board
- Change agenda order / items for Board meetings
- Different format of board meetings – location, time
- Label problems as puzzles
- Log how many questions are asked
- Create a code of conduct together
- Recruit board members based on passion



THANK YOU

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[The role of the trustee in a charity | Factsheets | IoD](#)
[Ticket Selection - Dynamic Duo \(site.com\)](#)
[Support for trustees | NCVO](#)
[For charitable bodies | Getting on Board](#)