

Your guide to...

REGISTERING AS A CHARITY

View the full toolkit at kit.riveractionuk.com

This guide provides a brief overview of useful resources and guidance on establishing your group as a charitable organisation.

WHAT IS IT?

A charity is a more formal and structured organisation. Charities are registered with The Charity Commission, and operate exclusively for charitable purposes, essentially the 'public benefit'. It implies a commitment to specific objectives and purposes, which align with those set out by the commission, and that the group must adhere to a range of legal requirements.

WHEN IS IT SUITABLE?

Opting for charity registration provides a legal framework that enhances credibility, access to funding, and a more robust foundation for pursuing the group's objectives. It is suitable for well established groups aiming for a long-term, impactful presence within the community.

HOW DO I DO IT?

You should refer to [The Charity Commission's](#) online resources for more detailed information and guidance in registering your group. To register you must complete their application process. Amongst various things, this will require you to:

- ✓ **State your eligibility**
Prove that the group meets the legal criteria for charity status.
- ✓ **Create a governing document / constitution**
Outline the group's objectives, powers, and decision-making processes.
- ✓ **Pay a registration fee**
This is determined by the size of your group's income.
- ✓ **Choose a suitable legal structure for your group**
Depending on the size and purpose of your group, you will need to select a suitable legal structure to represent your charity.