

### 18 Strategic Questions for the Board

1. Are we asking the right questions (even the difficult ones)? Are trustees and staff encouraged to ask questions and to get curious?
2. Identify the 'must does' and get those right
3. How accessible are we and are we open to dialogue? Do we acknowledge creativity – harnessing and encouraging healthy discussions and debate. Do we create the space for people to have discussions and share with each other?
4. Do we find out what others are doing well?
5. Do we need to challenge the sacred cows and previously accepted wisdoms?(eg being open to applying new thinking, exploring and using different styles to help you get results)
6. Do we take advice when we need it?
7. What warning signs should trustees watch out for (who is scanning the horizon)?
8. What is the balance of external/internal focus (eg information, scenario planning etc)
9. Is there a clear strategy in place?
10. Are the links to the risk register and the strategic direction clear and well understood
11. Does the board appropriately measure, monitor, evaluate and measure success (and identify who needs to be involved and consulted)
12. What is the culture that is in place to deliver impact. What climate are we creating to ensure our objectives are achieved? (ie organisational culture, emotional and social intelligence etc)
13. Does the board periodically assess its effectiveness (and the effectiveness of its approaches) and build on achievements
14. How is the board addressing operational overstretch? Management stretch will always have an impact!
15. Is it clear what action needs to be taken and when actions need to be triggered
16. Who is spotting the opportunities? (eg awareness raising? Reviewing policies and procedures to deliver what we need)
17. Can the organisation use the assets and resources in a better way? How resourceful and resilient are we?
18. What is the relevance of what is happening elsewhere (eg decisions by the courts, the charity commission, other regulators etc)