

**|| HOT TOPICS?**

**|| COOLE SOLUTIONS!**



coole insight ltd

Getting the right thing done

## 1. The Hot Topic – Trustee Board Effectiveness



With great power comes great responsibility... but this doesn't only apply to Spiderman, it applies to anyone who has the power to make decisions that make a difference to people's lives, for better or worse. Members of trustee board's have this power and responsibility, which means simply turning up to board meetings or going a step further by participating, doesn't really cut it. However, the journey to be an effective trustee board is not as daunting and painful as one might think, and it starts with developing an understanding of where the board is currently at, and where it needs to get to. Good practice, especially for new or reforming boards is to regularly reflect on their responsibilities, skill sets and annual business cycle that underpins the short, medium, and long-term performance measures of the organisation.

## 2. The Insight



Every board member requires support, regardless of their professional expertise and experience. Whether the person is a lawyer, student or a Chief Executive, the first step is understanding that everyone has something to learn from everyone else on that board, and that everyone is there for their skills and experience that match the current strategic needs and goals of the organisation. [Guidance](#) exists on how to be an effective trustee but getting the blend right as a collective board is more challenging, because it involves important decisions being taken by different people, with different backgrounds, different experiences and therefore different opinions.

## 3. The Coole Solution



[The Nolan Principles](#) are a timeless set of standards and a great reference point for boards. They can help the board to consider *how* it should behave when conducting its business. If the behavior is right, it is likely that the following processes and activities will also be right. Coole Insight recently supported the board at WGSU with a self-assessment process using NUS and NCVO's good governance framework. Here is what Sarah Ellis, CEO, had to say about the [training, and the facilitation of the self-assessment process](#).