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Third Sector, 6 April 2010

Meru - charity resources, voluntary organisations, social enterprise - Third Sector



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### **Governance at the charity that makes equipment for disabled children**

#### **Who is your chair?**

Robert Landeryou, who became involved with Meru when he was mayor of Sutton, south London. An engineer, he previously worked for the Department of Trade and Industry.

#### **What kind of people are on your board?**

We try to ensure a balance of engineers and people who have experience of working with disabled children. In addition, we have expertise in fundraising, international marketing and finance. One of our service users also sits on our board and, at 23, is our youngest trustee.

#### **When was your last governance review?**

We don't conduct formal reviews, but the chief executive is responsible for ensuring the board follows best practice.

#### **How do you recruit new trustees?**

If there is a skills gap we try to advertise for people to fill the position. We also network among our existing contacts.

#### **What is the biggest issue you face?**

Funding. About a year ago we moved out of the rent-free hospital ward where we had been based for many years and into a proper light industrial unit. It has enabled us to work more effectively, but we now have to pay rent, so we need to raise more funds.