



Choosing a legal structure

Sheba Arts (Manchester)

Sheba Arts (Manchester) have been running as an unincorporated Arts organisation with four Committee members for a few years. They wanted to create a new legal structure that would enable them to deliver a high-quality Arts service to various target beneficiaries.



The workshop involved attendees considering their options around choosing a legal structure and the benefits of incorporation. They did this by asking themselves a number of questions including:

- Are we likely to own land, buildings or investments or enter into leases
- Will we have paid staff
- Will we have long term financial commitments
- Will we carry out activities or services which carry a financial risk
- Is there the administrative capacity to deal with the extra paperwork and requirements

Fereshteh, attended our Choosing your structure workshop on behalf of Sheba Arts in order to: gain more knowledge of the various legal (Charitable and Company) structure and decide what is the best option for her organisation.

“Initially I was a little confused. Phil is great and he gave us so much information. After the training we have eventually decided we would like to set up a CIO Foundation. Thank you for organising an amazing workshop on choosing a structure”.

Sheba Arts reasons included:

- a CIO foundation structure offers important benefits of having separate legal personality, limited liability for trustees
- it was cheaper than company registration and easier to set up (registration via the Charity Commission or gov.uk website)
- Finally it felt that it was easier to run than a company limited by guarantee

The workshop helped Sheba Arts work through the pros and cons of being a CIO foundation. As well as attending the Choosing a legal structure workshop. Sheba Arts also attended our how to register your charity workshop. This was a very practical session showing them how to register a charity. They learnt so much about getting registered and what they need to do and how they need to be gathering their organisational information in advance of their online registration.

May 2019