



Principle 4

Individualised, skilled support is provided

Having good support is very important if a person with intellectual disability is to carry out a Board role effectively.

- It requires the development of a trusting relationship with in-depth knowledge of the individual and their support needs.
- It should be an independent role – not given by another Board member.
- The support role is complex and needs a skilled person, who understands general governance procedures and is able to offer support that meets individual needs.
- Support for decision-making must be given without influencing the decision being made.

Support is best provided in 3 areas

- preparation for meetings (such as reviewing reports, identifying questions)
- during meetings (support to keep on task, prompts about things to say, help with the decision-making process)
- between meetings (reminders of meetings or agreed tasks)

The trusting relationship between a Board member with intellectual disability and the support person is important.