### Skills being assessed in this unit:

- Knowledge
- Analysis

#### Literary skill focus:

Justification

#### Key words:

- · Charity
- Donations
- Aid
- Cancer Research
- Comic Relief
- Children in Need
- Scams and scandals
- Analyse
- Evidence

#### Extra reading/Watching:

https://www.theguardian.com/ commentisfree/2016/feb/07/ch arities-and-their-role-in-society

https://www.politics.co.uk/opin ion-formers/ncvo/article/ukcharities-and-our-society



### Year 9 Summer 2: What role does charity play in our society?

#### What is a charity?

There are rules that all charities have to follow:

- A charity's aims have to fall into categories that the law says are charitable. These are things like preventing or relieving poverty, or advancing the arts, culture, heritage or science.
- It has to be established exclusively for what is known as public benefit(see below).
  That means its only purpose must be charitable.
- Charities can't make profits. All the money they raise has to go towards achieving their aims. A charity can't have owners or shareholders who benefit from it.

Charities have to state what their charitable objectives are in order to be registered with the Charity Commission, and then explain how they are meeting them in their annual reports, which are publicly available. You can read more about how charities make themselves accountable in the accountability and transparency section. It's up to the Charity Commission to decide whether an organisation passes the public benefit test. It does this on the basis of its guidance, and by looking at case law.



#### Public benefit

To be a charity, an organisation has to:

### Be of benefit

It has to do positive things, and if there are negative side-effects or consequences, these must be outweighed by its positive work.

### Benefit the public

This doesn't have to mean all of the public. It could mean everyone in a geographic area, or everyone with a specific characteristic, such as people with cancer, or who work in teaching.

#### Problems with charity:

Most people would say that charity is always good, but not everyone. Some argue that charity is sometimes carried out badly - or less well than it should be - while others think that charity can bring bad results even when it is well implemented.

# Charities often target symptoms, not causes

The accusation is that charity helps the recipient with their problem, but it doesn't do much to deal with the causes of that problem.

## Charity may become a substitute for real justice

Charity, from this viewpoint, can sometimes be seen as actually accepting the injustice itself, while trying to mitigate the consequences of the injustice.

#### Failing to change society

Charity may not provide the best solution to a problem.

## Charity may benefit the state rather than the needy

Charity to support essential services is bad because it switches provision from government to charity, rather than increasing benefits to the needy.

## Charities may not make best use of their funds

The issue here is whether the charity we give to devotes a high enough proportion of its funds to the needy.